Write it—with a "I.B." Pen—Coupon on Page 14.

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The largest Tea Distributors, Manufacturers, and Retailers of Food Products in the World

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JOHN BULL

VOL. XXV. No. 662. | SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 1919. | TWOPENCE.

[Registered at the G.P.O. as a Newspaper.]

No. 555.

STATE EXPRESS CIGARETTES

No. 444.

Edited by HORATIO BOTTOMLEY

THE TRAGEDY OF PARIS

BY HORATIO BOTTOMLEY

"I save all the Silk Pictures in my B.D.V. Cigarette packets for my wife and the kiddies, and they won £10 in last month's Needlework Competition.

Over £10,000 has already been Awarded in the

B. D. V. Cigarette Needlework Competition

Enter at Once. Full particulars from

GODFREY PHILLIPS, LTD.,

LONDON, E. 1.

NEURASTHENIA.

Neurasthenia is a nerve complaint very prevalent to-day. The worries of war, including shock from air raids, business uncertainties, anxiety as to the fate of relatives, irregular and unsuitable food, are largely to blame or this nervous condition. Neurasthenia can also be induced by repeated severe colds, *influenza*, decayed teeth, anæmia, blood impurities, tuberculosis, and by excessive use of alcohol, tobacco, tea and coffee, etc. The subject of neurasthenia is a large one, but it is fairly completely dealt with in Nos. 67 and 68 "Health News," and we advise sufferers to obtain copies. Price 2d. each, Post Free. The following formula is an excellent nerve tonic for *loss of nerves, alternate hot and cold feelings, palpitation of the heart and trembling limbs.*

HEART TONIC.

Stops you Failing to Pieces and Feeling Funky. (Formula 632.)

NUX VOMICA EXTRACT ..... 1-6th gr.
DIGITALIS ..... ½ gr.
GENTIAN EXTRACT ..... ½ gr.
DANDELION EXTRACT ..... ½ gr.

PRICE 2/6 (72) and 4/6 (144 pills) with directions.

LOSS OF WEIGHT TONIC. Thinness and Nervousness.

Thinness is never desirable, and your personal attractions are lessened when you are thin and scraggy. An excellent prescription for helping to increase weight and to check rickets and nervousness is: *Zinc Phosphide, Lecithin, Lime Hypophosphite, Soda Hypophosphite, Potassium Hypophosphite, with Casein and Sugar* in a tablet. This is good for children as well as adults, and costs 2/6 (72), 4/6 (144), and 12/- (432). Prescription No. 352. Consult Pamphlet No. 32. Price 2d.

SKIN AND BEAUTY TONIC. Sallow Complexion, Blackheads, Pimples, Dull Eyes. (Formula 462.)

Charcoal, Dried Sulph. Iron, Calcium Sulphide, Nux Vomica Gentian.

Ice 1/6 (72), 3/3 (144).
Consult Pamphlet No. 36. Price 2d.

BRAIN AND NERVE TONIC.

If mental depression, loss of memory, and general debility are associated, try this: *Phosphorous, Nux Vomica, Damiana, Pure Lecithin.* In one tablet. This acts like magic. Price 1/7 (25), and 5/6 (100). Prescription No. 470.

BAD BLOOD TONIC. Sores, Swollen Glands, Ulcers. (Formula 288, new.)

The "Iodides" have been doubled, and specially suitable for cases needing prolonged treatment.

Deeper seated blood impurities, which cause rash, pustular eruptions, sores, glandular swellings, and ulcerated wounds and glands, are arrested and finally expelled by the following: *Combined Iodides, Mercuric Chloride, Nux Vomica, Stillingia Jacoranda and Sarsaparilla (traces).* In one tablet. With directions. Price 2/6 (72), and 12/- (432). Thousands of sufferers are working their way back to health by means of this. Consult Pamphlet No. 62. Price 2d.

NERVE FOOD FOR RUN-DOWN NERVES. (Formula 38.)

Lecithin, Glycerophosphates, Cassia, Lactic, and Malted Foods.

Useful for athletes, invalids, children or convalescent soldiers.
Prices, 1/11, 3/6, and 7/-. In tablets or powder form.

A GOOD GENERAL TONIC. (For Generals and the Rank and File.)

Forced March Tonic. (Formula 458.)

(Will help you over the stile.)
Nux Vomica, Lecithin, Coca, Damiana.
In pills. Price 2/6 (25) and 8/- (100). With directions.

COUGHS, COLDS, AFTER INFLUENZA, AND OTHER AILMENTS.

COUGHS, COLDS, SORE CHEST, SHORTNESS OF BREATH. (Formula 617.)

Squills, Ipecacuanha, Antimony, Menthol, Peppermint, Cloves, &c.

Makes two pints of Lung Tonic. With directions. Price 2/6.

ASTHMA. (Formula 518).

Stramonium, Camphor, Squill, &c.

Relieves the spasmodic cough and shortness of breath. Can be used in conjunction with other remedies. Price 1/3 (36) and 4/6 (144 pills). Consult Pamphlet No. 66. Price 2d.

PAINS IN LIMBS AND JOINTS. STIFFNESS, SWOLLEN TOES AND FINGERS. (Formula 74.)

Colchicum Extract, Blue Pill, Comp. Rhubarb Pills, Extract Hyoscyamus, Methylene Blue.

Useful in Rheumatic Gout, Sciatica, and certain forms of Arthritis. With directions.
Price 1/6 (50), 3/3 (100).

AFTER INFLUENZA, COLDS, &c. TONIC FOR ADULTS. (Formula 838.)

Nux Vomica Extract, Quinine and Iron Citrate, Gentian Extract.
Price 1/4 (25), 4/6 (100 pills).

HÆMORRHOIDS, CONSTIPATION, SLUGGISH LIVER, AND ATONIC DYSPEPSIA. (Formula 394.)

Cascara, Nux Vomica, Belladonna and Gentian.
With directions. Price 1/3 (36) 4/6 (144) pills.

ANTI-TUBERCULAR LUNG TONIC. (Formula 228.)

Creosote, Cinnamon, Bone Marrow, Lecithin, Phosphorus, and Iodine.

Not sold as a consumptive cure, but nevertheless, useful in combating lung weakness. Consult Pamphlet 65. Price 2d.
Price 1/6 (50), 3/3 (100 tablets).

NERVOUS DYSPEPSIA TONIC. (Formula 1,039)

Nux Vomica Extract, Quinine Sulphate, Quassia Extract, Gentian, Compound Cinnamon Powder.

These tablets tone up the walls of the stomach.
Price 1/3 (25), 4/6 (100).
A non-purgative tonic digestive.

CITY BRANCH, 48, King William Street, E.C. 4.

BACKACHE, RHEUMATISM, SCIATICA. (Formula 40.)

Potassium Nitrate, Extract of Colchicum, Methylene Blue, Buchu Extract, Venice Turpentine, Bearberry Extract, Capsicum, Juniper Oil, Copaiba.

A Urinary Antiseptic for Gravel, Sciatica, etc.
With directions. Price 1/6 (50) and 3/3 (100). Consult Pamphlet 70.

PINE PASTILLES. (Formula 215.)

Camphor, Oil Aniseed, Oil Pine, Menthol, Licorice, etc.

A useful remedy for Coughs, Colds, &c., of the pine type.
Price 1/3 (100).

EPILEPSY. (Formula 388.)

Falling Sickness.

Ammonium, Potassium, and Sodium Bromides, Ammonium Carbonate, Potassium Iodide, Compound Tincture of Gentian.

With full directions. Price 2/6 and 8/- a bottle. Also supplied in Tablets (Formula 740). Price 1/6 (25), 6/3 (100).
Consult Pamphlet 77. Price 2d.

HUSKINESS, SORE NOSE, THROAT, AND CHEST, TIGHTNESS OF THE CHEST, COUGH. (Formula 331.)

(Nasal, Bronchial, and Intestinal Catarrh.)

Paregoric Elixir, Pine Tar, Creosote, Licorice.
Price 1/6 (50), 3/3 (100).

UNSIGHTLY SKIN, PSORIASIS, ECZEMA, ALOPECIA (BALD PATCHES). (Formula 650.)

Mercury Perch., Creosote, Zinc Ointment.

To be applied night and morning. Price 1/4 and 3/3.

URETHRITIS AND BLADDER IRRITATION. (Formula 282.)

Sandal Wood Oil, Cubebs, Venice Turpentine, Copaiba, Colchium Extract, Gravel Nut, Podophyllin Formamine.

Liberates Formalin, possesses germicidal and cooling properties. Used in Cystitis and Prostatitis.
Price 1/6 (50), 3/3 (100).
Consult Pamphlet 63. Price 2d.

The above prescriptions may be obtained post free at the prices named (abroad extra) from

Mr. WM. SHADFORTH, Pharmaceutical Chemist. (Shadforth Prescription Service, Ltd.)
63, (Dept. J.B. 6) GROVE ROAD, BOW, LONDON, E. 3.

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LIMITED.

Head Office—54, LOMBARD STREET, LONDON, E.C. 3,
and over **1,350** branches in England and Wales.

Issued Capital	**£14,137,332**	**Reserve Fund**	**£6,000,000**
Amount Paid-up Dec. 31, 1918	**£7,289,444**	**Deposits**	**£239,660,000**

THE BANK CONDUCTS EVERY FORM OF ENGLISH AND FOREIGN BANKING BUSINESS.

DRAWING ACCOUNTS are opened upon the terms usually adopted by Bankers.
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THE LAMP THAT THROWS A LIGHT ON THE PROBLEM OF EFFICIENCY WITH ECONOMY.

MAD THROUGHOUT AT HAMMERSMITH.

Osram G.E.C. LAMPS

LET YOUR BICYCLE KEEP AWAY THE DOCTOR.

A FEW miles in the air is better than a few minutes in the tram, 'bus or train. Fit a pair of Dunlop tyres to your bicycle and take exercise in its most agreeable form.

Dunlop

I will teach YOU to play brilliantly without Drudgery or Fatigue

In a few months, and with less than half the usual practice, my modern, vivid, progress-compelling **Piano Correspondence Lessons** will give you such a grip of the Keyboard and ease in reading **ordinary music**, that you will play with spirit and feeling, Songs, Marches, Dances, Hymns, and many of the famous Classical Gems.

I guarantee success to any average person.

Adult Beginners need not know a note.

Send a card to-day for my illuminating little book **"MIND, MUSCLE & KEYBOARD"** It explains my System and shows what many hundreds of all ages and stages, say it has done for their playing. **Judge for yourself what it can do for you.**

A Professional Player—"I can never thank you enough for all you have done for me. I sit down now to the piano with a degree of confidence and rise from it with a measure of aesthetic satisfaction hitherto denied to me."—M. F. J. (Dublin.)

A postcard with full address (Mrs., Miss or Mr.) and the word Moderate, Elementary or Beginner will bring my book, with form for free advice and opinion by return

Mr. H. BECKER, 81, Bristol House, Holborn Viaduct, LONDON, E.C 1.

"De Reszke" AMERICAN CIGARETTES

Numbers of good judges—men and women whose palates are unusually keen—have recorded their opinions of the "De Reszke" Cigarettes. The following examples are representative of all:—

Sir Frederick Bridge, Mus. Doc., writes: "The 'De Reszke' Cigarettes seem to me very pleasant and mild."

Miss Horniman writes: "The only thing Miss Horniman can say against the 'De Reszke' Cigarettes is this—they are so tempting that they induce her to smoke them too quickly."

Other opinions in other "De Reszke" advertisements.

Sold at all Military Canteens at Home and Overseas, also Tobacconists and Stores.

Foster Clark's

FOSTER CLARK'S 2d. SOUPS are a most wholesome substitute for Meat. Make them your daily food.
You simply add Water

2D SOUPS

JOHN BULL

The Paper on which the Sun Never Sets.

Politics without Party—Criticism without Cant:
Without Fear or Favour, Rancour or Rant.

Come the three corners of the world in arms,
And we shall shock them.

Naught shall make us rue,
If Britain to itself do rest but true.

Vol. XXV. No. 662. Week ending Saturday, February 8th, 1919. Twopence.

"THE WORLD, THE FLESH, AND THE DEVIL."

[*The Editor discourses upon passing events and topics of the day.*]

Lady Susan Townley.

So Sir Walter Townley has resigned his position as British Minister at the Hague. Oh, Lady Susan, whatever made you receive the ex-Kaiser, when he fled like a craven to Amerongen?

Pity the Poor Typist.

Who is the eminent member of the British Peace Delegation whose daughter was sent over to France as a typist, at a salary of £2 a week—accompanied by her maid?

Those Enemy Princes.

So the Privy Council *have* removed the names of the Dukes of Cumberland and Albany from the British Peerage. At least, it has taken the necessary preliminary steps; *we* must do the rest.

A Treat.

At last that ridiculous No-treating Order—the charter of the mean man—is to go. And with it, we had better also send another legislative dead letter—the obsolete Black List of notorious topers.

Not Good Enough.

Prince Eitel Fritz has been telling the Germans that his father, the ex-Kaiser, is now "legally" dead. We must get rid of that adjective without delay.

The Coming Boxing Boom.

One of the first features of the coming peace will undoubtedly be a great revival in the old English sport of boxing; and everybody will look eagerly forward to the arrival of the famous French champion, Carpentier—who, after his splendid war service, will be assured of a great reception by all British sportsmen.

The Fun of the Fair.

We read that during the proceedings at the first open plenary sitting of the Peace Conference, Mr. Lloyd George, Lord Robert Cecil and Mr. Balfour were passing jokes to each other on slips of paper, and, according to the *Evening Standard*'s Special Correspondent, going into convulsions of mirth. Personally, we cannot believe it; but if it is true—well, it's true!

"Too Much Wilson!"

Under this title—which we ventured to coin a few weeks ago—Mr. Leo Maxse has a striking article in the present month's *National Review*, some of the material upon which it is founded having been obtained from our *dossiers*. We mention the fact because, in the pressure of work, our dear brother has forgotten to do so.

Beer and Bolshevism.

Have you ever reflected upon the close connection between these two things? Lord D'Abernon could do more to restore industrial peace than anybody else.

True Temperance.

The True Temperance Association, the object of which is to make the public house a real place of rest, refreshment and entertainment, hits the right nail on the head. We wish it luck.

Those Evening Gowns.

If it be the fact, as reported, that the Prime Minister has packed home a lot of those flapper typists, with their 25-guinea evening gowns, we should like to know whether any official has been sacked, or surcharged with the cost.

The "Old Contemptibles."

Now that demobilisation is being taken seriously in hand, wouldn't it be a fine and inspiring thing to liberate at once all who remain of French's "Contemptible Little Army"—we believe there are about 12,000 out of 170,000—and accord them a triumphant welcome through the streets of London and other large cities?

The Old Story.

Here is a little story. A Hackney tradesman joined up and did his bit, and was invalided out last year. In the meantime his business had to be closed down. His pension *was* 22s. per week, but has been reduced to 13s. He has five children to support. He is unable to work—and his wife has committed suicide! What's the matter with the Prince of Wales' Fund?

Watch Haydn.

Amongst the Coalition supporters returned unopposed at the recent Election was Mr. Haydn Jones, who now sits for Merioneth. And here is one of his reported statements, addressing a recent meeting of farmers in his constituency: "Let them forget the past with Germany. If they would not trade with Germany it would mean another war." We must keep our eye on Haydn.

Precept and Practice.

Whilst the Government is calling upon private employers, when engaging ex-soldiers, to refrain from taking advantage of the pensions won by them, we find Public Departments themselves—acting apparently under Treasury instructions—exploiting the patriotism of these men by deducting their well-earned rewards from the legitimate salaries attaching to their services. In this connection the Scottish Board of Agriculture seems to be one of the chief offenders—and it is Scotch!

The Paper Control.

This is one of the worst scandals of the war. The gross profiteering which has put millions in the pockets of certain firms is still rampant. Would the authorities like a few samples?

"Sir" Joseph Jonas.

Some of our Sheffield readers suggest that the life-size oil painting, in official robes, of the late "Sir" and the present "Mr." Joseph Jonas as Lord Mayor of the City, should be removed from the Parlour of the Town Hall. No doubt the ex-knight would be quite willing to take it home.

The Northern Territory.

It is peculiarly gratifying to us to read that the Australian Government has at last decided to take up seriously the development of this El Dorado—to whose potentialities we drew attention years ago in the City, and more recently in a special article from the pen of Mr. A. G. Hales, in these columns. Look out for another Australian mining boom.

Slow Payers.

Many complaints reach us, from comparatively small firms, of inordinate delay on the part of the Admiralty and other Government Departments in paying for work done, with the result that such firms frequently experience difficulty in finding the necessary money for wages and other outgoings.

A Nonagenarian's Idea.

One of our readers, who tells us that he is now in his 90th year, suggests that we might do a deal with America by selling her the Bermuda Islands and the Bahamas—both so close to her that, with the Panama Canal now open, she might think it worth while taking them over in payment of some of the money we owe. That old fellow's knowing!

Our Splendid "Specials."

Sir William Gentle, of Brighton, Chief of Chief Constables, is formulating a scheme for the recognition of the services rendered to the town during the war by his Specials. All credit to him—but surely the matter is one which the Government should deal with. So far, the only official announcement has been that these splendid fellows are to be allowed to retain their armlets, truncheons and whistles!

Be Prepared.

Claims under our Free Fire Insurance Scheme are coming in and, of course, being settled. Amongst them are three in respect of damage done to readers' homes, whilst in one case personal injuries were sustained in an effort to put out a fire. The fire demon may attack *you* next; Be prepared!

"And the Lord Said."

Let anybody and everybody else say what they like, Lord Halifax will have it (1) that the ex-Kaiser is "no worse than his countrymen," and (2) that "the demand for his extradition and punishment is madness." Unfortunately there isn't rope enough in stock to deal with the whole lot, and it is up to the Allies to pick and choose.

A Slight Inaccuracy.

It is very nice of the Tudor Accumulator Company, Ltd., of Manchester and London, to tell us in their advertisements that they are "now entirely British," but if this is so it must have happened in a hurry. According to the latest return at Somerset House, one of the Directors is Mr. Antoine B. Pescatore, described as a native of Luxembourg, and if the State of Luxembourg has been annexed to the British Empire, the fact has certainly escaped our notice. And not much does.

How Not To Save.

The Guardians who run the Portsmouth Parish Infirmary boast a saving of £4,000 since the war. It is understood they are still saving, at the expense of the inmates. No fires and no hot water has been the rule. If one fire is lighted, to warm four wards, it must be put out when the water is hot. Only one boiler, instead of the necessary two, is used for the radiators, while the gas is scanty enough to make darkness just about visible. Such a method of saving is nothing to boast of.

Gas.

"Notice is hereby given," says the Dover Gas Company in a postcard notice to its slot-meter consumers, "that . . . we shall have to charge you an additional 3d. for every 1s placed in the slot, and this will be payable when the cash in the meter is collected . . . . In default of payment the supply of gas will be immediately discontinued without further notice." This 25 per cent. imposition is by authority of the Board of Trade. The Board, however, have not permitted the Folkestone Gas Company to increase *their* charges, though the coal conditions are identical. Perhaps Dover pays more for the wind in its gas pipes.

A Monstrous Fine.

Here is a gross piece of injustice that needs to be put right. A business, belonging to W. H. Mulock, has been carried on at 92–94, Drummond Street, N.W., under the name of "W. H. Mulock, Supply Stores." He went to fight, and the shop was kept going for him by his stepfather, John Barns. The War Office have informed Mr. Barns that his step-son has been killed in France, but the promised death certificate has not yet been sent. Despite these circumstances, Barns has been summoned for carrying on business without having his name up, and fined £100 and £5 costs!

Cribbed—But Uncoffined.

The District Coroner of Oundle, Northants, said that the case of Wm. Barber, tramping labourer, whose naked body was found on the roadside, was the first one in his forty years' experience of a man divesting himself of his clothing on a cold night. We hope it was the first case, *and the last*, of the body of an Englishman being wrapped in canvas, stitched up, and interred. It wasn't even petty meanness on the part of the local authority, for village people offered to pay for a coffin. No! it was just downright callousness. If it had been a Hun Prisoner of War!

A Young Dutchman.

"A young Dutchman, aged 23 years, seeks situation in nursery or shop. Speaks English well. High wages not required." The appearance of this advertisement in a horticultural paper arouses the wrath of one of our readers. "Is this the sort of thing British workers are to contend with in the New Paradise, and the war not yet over?" he demands—and justly.

Herr Hun Her Hun.

Herr Rudolph Koepp was retired from Hull to the Isle of Man; released to earn £2 12s. a week among Englishmen at a Rugby cement factory; sent his British wife for a while 5s. a week for the support of herself and four children; and finally left her without a penny to be supported by the British ratepayers. It is evident there is no official intention of sending home the Hun married to an Englishwoman, whether he supports his wife and children or not. It needs a conscience of sorts for British firms to employ Huns these days; and happily not many British employers cultivate the sort.

The Selling Stakes.

"I write as a lover of animals," says an officer of a Veterinary Hospital in France. "I have had for the last 3½ years a very favourite charger. Now if I wish to keep him he must go to England for sale by auction, and I must appoint a representative to buy him there for me. I do think this is hard. Why won't the War Office allow me to buy him where he is?" The War Office might liquidate its "spare goods" with greater sense and sympathy.

Those Village Huts.

For the purpose of opening huts in villages and towns throughout the Kingdom, the Y.M.C.A. is after more millions from the public. The quest scarcely seems warranted. Huts and canteens at home make huge profits, and the Y.M.C.A. has all the advantage of voluntary help, so saving salaries. At the front its supplies were often free of charge to the soldiers, but this liberality was largely counterbalanced by profits made elsewhere. The proposed village huts will be a trading concern, without need to call for millions in the name of charity.

When Done With.

When the Admiralty wanted a man as Inspector of Steel in Glasgow, they graciously—and gladly—granted free railway warrants for his wife and children to travel thither. When the Admiralty had done with the man at the end of last year, they had no railway warrants to offer him; the refusal of them was point-blank. It is pretty mean to take a family from home, get all the work wanted, and then leave them to shift for themselves. Especially when a Government pass costs the Government nothing.

A Bleak Outlook.

After the age of 70, a Post Office Depositor—that is, a contributor who is not a member of an Approved Society—is no longer entitled to sickness benefit under the National Insurance Act. The idea is, apparently, that after that age the expenses of illness can be paid out of the surplus left over from the Old Age Pension. A specially hard case is that of an old lady who, though over 70, prefers to work for her living rather than be dependent on the State pittance. In the event of illness this poor old soul will be utterly destitute—all because, being in a position to choose, she has preferred a modest independence to the starveling "bounty" of the State.

Sunday Tobacco Taboo.

Before the war thousands of tobacconists nursed the grievance that they could not open shop on Sundays without being fined. Behold a change. At a meeting of the retail tobacconists of Bristol, a reporter says, "a strong feeling" was shown among them against the sale of tobacco on Sundays." They can please themselves, but should not be allowed to coerce the small people who can't live without the extra trade.

Rough on Forage Girls.

Something seems radically wrong with the way some Forage Girls are paid, or not paid. Twenty of them were ordered to a fresh town, with one, two, or three weeks' pay owing. After many prayerful applications, 15s. each was sent, the balance being still in the air. Meanwhile they are threatened with eviction from their billets because they cannot pay their way. They ask us not to name the locality, otherwise we would gladly indicate the guilty slackers.

Sacked by the Sergeant.

Birkenhead "specials," like others, have got to go. They are to "stand not on the order of their going," but just to "git." No parade, no address of sweet thanks by the Chief Constable, no ceremony—"no nothing," except a circular read out by the sergeant, dismissing them and telling them to hand over their equipment. Their four years of hard work are over; perhaps they will not be wanted any more, so—let the sergeant sack them!

A Good Citizen.

An Italian, who came to England at the age of 10, has lived and worked for 34 years in Sheffield. He married an English girl, has 11 children, all boys; three have served in the war, seven are still under 15. Through coal-shortage up at the Bessemer works, he is now unemployed. He applied at the Labour Exchange to be registered for the out-of-work grant, but learned he is ineligible, because he is an Italian. All he would get would be the ordinary 7s. This is where a good rule works badly, for surely this "alien" has earned his right to citizenship.

For the Bus Ladies.

It is good to know that the London General Omnibus Co. is honourably reinstating discharged men in their old jobs. It is not so nice to learn that the step often injures other ex-soldiers at work for the Company, but not old servants. The returned man must have his job; every soul concerned admits that. The one to stand down for him, however, should not be another soldier, but one of the girls. They will all leave some day, and we believe most of them would gracefully accept a "spare" job now, sooner than take wages away from a man who has fought for them.

No More Floating Hells.

Brigadier-General C. H. Foott writes to say that since January 9th, the Australian Imperial Force Repatriation and Demobilisation Department has taken over the work of transporting wives and widows of members of the A.I.F. to Australia. The inspection of ships which has now been instituted by this Department seems highly satisfactory, and we hope that in future there will be nothing to complain of. In addition, the Department has taken up the matter of fares so vigorously that the wives and dependents of *all* members of the A.I.F., as well as widows of deceased members, are now granted third-class passages. Bravo!

rom Boy to Man.

One minor problem affecting the reinstatement of returned men is difficult of solution. t arises when the soldier left as a boy and omes home as a man. The employer is willing o take him back, but cannot make a man's lace for him. If he offers a boy's berth and ages, the soldier is not unnaturally affronted. here will have to be an amiable attitude of ive and take between man and master when boy's post is unsuitable and a man's has never een occupied.

Indispensables."

One of the illustrated papers has a picture f a room in the Office of Works, where furniture o longer wanted by Government Departments s being sold. What rags a resident of Cardiff who writes to us, is the spectacle of the youthful " indispensable " officials standing around with heir hands in their pockets, trying to look as important as possible before the camera. He uggests, by the way, that some of the furniture foresaid should be distributed among the various Waterguard Watch-houses, at present decorated with broken chairs, dilapidated desks and rotten forms.

A Scurvy Co-op.

Members of the Co-op. at Tillicoultry, near Stirling, have been paying an allowance to the enlisted staff; now when these men enquire as to whether and when they will be reinstated in their situations the Committee decide that "where no vacancy exists these employees cannot be reinstated, but when a vacancy does occur their claims will have first consideration." In other words, while they have been doing their bit for the country in order that the Tillicoultry Co-op. might carry on with their " divvy " and dodge the income-tax, the Committee are making permanent cover for the men and women who have sneaked their jobs.

Favouring a Hun.

Apparently it is not always a disadvantage to be a German. We note, for instance, that although the importation of olive oil is strictly prohibited by Board of Trade Regulations, Messrs. Frederick Boehm, Ltd., of Jewry Street, E.C., have a quantity for sale, "released" to them, as they explain, under Government orders. Meanwhile, a City merchant, just an ordinary Britisher, has been informed by the Department of Import Restrictions that " this commodity is prohibited for importation entirely," and that any shipments under way must be stopped. Remembering that Frederick—or should it be Fritz?—Boehm is an unnaturalised German, certified for internment, and afterwards released, it is monstrous that this firm should enjoy trading privileges denied to British subjects.

Margarine Toffee.

Troubles of Infirmary patients seem on the increase. Insufficient food is the wrong mostly complained of, and this, together with general cheeseparing, is laid at the door of the Guardians responsible for the running of Croydon Infirmary. But when we are told that many inmates lying there have had dry bread as a meal on several days, because somebody used their margarine to make toffee—why, then we begin to muse muchly. Margarine for toffee sounds almost too stiff—or not stiff enough.

Those Idle Ships.

Behold the good ship H.M.T. *Euripides*. She left New York, December 10th, and arrived at Plymouth, December 21st. After four days her presence was discovered, and, just for show, she was ordered to Brest, to unload. She got there on Christmas Day, was still there, fully laden, nearly four weeks later, and is probably there yet. One day a gang of German prisoners got ready to unload her, but there was nothing to unload her into, so they took a day's rest and departed. She is a triple-screw steamer of 15,000 tons, and could be employed more usefully than in stagnating.

Manchester Committee's Balance.

A returned prisoner of war in Germany, a man of the 9th Manchesters, informs us that though his parents " paid the full subscription to enable him to receive 6 food parcels a month during his imprisonment, the Manchester Committee sent him only one a month. Nor is his case an isolated one, according to him—" Man after man of the Manchester Regiments could tell you the same story, some not receiving one parcel all the ten months they were in captivity." What have the Committee to say about it? They assuredly cannot plead that they have been short of money, for they have not only a credit balance of £15,000, but are debating what to do with it.

Brett Still Bouncing.

Bouncing Brett, the " cash chemist," of 173, Bradford Road, Huddersfield, is still displaying his remarkable quality. It will be remembered that, after bouncing people into sending him money for a rubbishy " tobacco substitute," for which he was duly fined, he proceeded to bounce a customer into paying an exorbitant price for some condensed milk. He is now advertising in a local paper for householders to "give evidence" as to the names and addresses of persons who exhibited posters bearing his name, and referring to an article dealing with these incidents. This is, of course, merely another bounce. He is perfectly well aware that the name and address of the concern responsible for such posters is: John Bull, Ltd., 93, Long Acre, London, W.C.2.

Bumble Still Lively.

Folks who believe that Bumble is dead are right out of their reckoning. A soldier's wife at Ringwood, Hants, having to go into hospital for an operation, left a three weeks' supply of food for her children, and arranged with a neighbour to look after them from day to day. This may not have been an ideal arrangement, and no doubt the Poor Law officials thought they had a good right to interfere, but their mode of procedure was open to serious objection. What they did, it appears, was to bundle the frightened youngsters off to the workhouse, confiscate the food supplies, and afterwards, when the mother was back from the hospital, send her in a bill for the children's keep at the rate of 10s. weekly for each child From all of which we infer that Mr. Bumble of Ringwood is in an excellent state of health.

Persistent Mr. Maxwell.

Mrs. Emily Whillier, the wife of a Sergeant serving in France, recently had the greatest surprise of her life. Although the rent of her two rooms at Aldershot was paid up for several weeks ahead, she arrived back one day from munition making to find that the landlord, Mr. James Maxwell, was in possession of her home! He apparently wanted both the rent and the rooms! Mr. Justice Lush soon made an order restraining further trespass upon the premises by landlord Maxwell, who also had to foot a bill for £27 10s. for damages and costs, and Mrs. Whillier came into her own again. Mr. Maxwell, however, has served Mrs. Whillier with a notice to quit, failing which legal proceedings are threatened. If they are taken, we hope the local Court will grant the landlord as short a shrift as that allowed by the High Court.

The "Hidden Hand."

In view of the suspicion again arroused of the Hidden Hand in our midst—especially in connection with the wave of industrial unrest now spreading through the country—special interest attaches to the film version of Mr. Lawrence Cowen's remarkable play, which had such a successful run in London. Our readers will be glad to know this graphic and revealing picture of Hun machinations may be seen next week at the Burslem Picture Palace, Birmingham, and the Electric Theatre, Kilmarnock.

"Bullets" Increase.

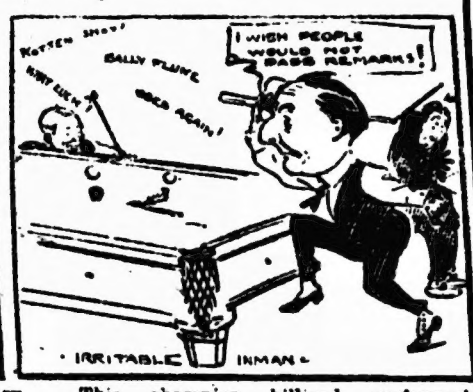
This week the First Prize in our "Bullets" Competition has been increased to £250. There are also ten new prizes of £5 each. Thus "Bullets," with over 4,000 valuable prizes weekly, makes the best offer of any paper in the world.

"JOHN BULL'S" WEEKLY CINEMA.

Though the Hun threatens Poland, no need to get "windy."
For Field-Marshal Foch has his eye upon Hindy.

'Tis proposed to give Tommy an acre to plough,
But he wants the proverbial three, and the cow.

Though Hilary cases may serve but to weary us,
The resultant "refreshers" make Counsel hilarious.



This champion billiard performer's mistake
Was this cue-rious stroke with its following "break."

Candid Communications.

This space is devoted to Open Letters to Celebrities, Notorieties and occasionally Nonentities.

To General Sir John Cowans.

DEAR GENERAL,—At the moment of writing, the announcement that you are to be the first Governor of Mesopotamia awaits confirmation. But if I know anything of the "whitewashing and decorating" methods of the Government, I can quite believe that, having disgraced yourself over the Cornwallis-West case, you are to be further rewarded in the manner suggested. I am reminded that if you are jobbed into the post, you will also become Governor of the Garden of Eden—where, historically at any rate, there was also "a woman in the case." That you may be spared the presence of another "wicked woman of Wales," is my cynical aspiration. JOHN BULL.

To the Right Hon. Austen Chamberlain, M.P., Chancellor of the Exchequer.

DEAR CHANCELLOR,—Two opportunities are ready to your hand. For one thing, soldiers' and sailors' gratuities and pensions ought in common fairness to be free from income tax. Another matter that requires attention is the joint income tax for married couples, a grossly unfair provision where both are wage-earners. An early statement on these two questions would be welcome evidence of your determination to deal fairly by the public.

JOHN BULL.

To the Chairman, Board of Guardians, Keynsham.

DEAR SIR,—I note with satisfaction that the Keynsham Guardians have been vigorously protesting against "the practical impossibility of obtaining brandy for the sick." Neither brandy for the sick nor whisky for the well, that's the policy of this tectotal Government; and if it is any comfort to you to know my opinion about it, I can tell you that where it isn't a cruel hardship it is a damned exasperation. I don't know how much longer the British public are going to stand it, with 112,685,000 gallons of spirits—four years' normal supply—in bond. JOHN BULL.

To Provost Kirke, Burntisland, Fifeshire.

DEAR PROVOST,—It may sound impolite to say so, but on the whole I am glad I do not live in Burntisland. It seems that the town drains are in such a bad condition that certain districts have several times been flooded, one resident having had his property damaged to the extent of £20. Not only had the unfortunate house owner to go to law with the Burntisland Town Council, but when he had won his suit he was actually deprived of his costs. It seems to me that the Council behaved most ungenerously in the matter. You had better get those drains mended, anyway.

JOHN BULL.

To W. Sydney Smith, Esq., Superintendent, Royal Aircraft Establishment, South Farnborough.

DEAR SUPER,—I am at a loss to know what you are playing at in regard to housing accommodation for the aircraft workers at Farnborough. In the first place, you give a number of workmen notice to leave their houses when it is an utter impossibility for them to find room elsewhere; and then, in the most off-handed manner possible, you tell them that to make things easier they can quit their jobs at the same time as their cottages. If this is your idea of a joke, let me tell you that it is a long way from being funny. JOHN BULL.

To Messrs. Stimpson, Lock and Vince, Estate Agents, Watford Junction.

GENTLEMEN,—I see that you are wanting a Caretaker for a Large Unfurnished House at Watford. First of all, the wages are to be exactly nothing a week, out of which the lucky applicants are to find their own coals, and anything else they may want. Secondly, it is stipulated that there are to be "no offspring," so if the couple appointed have any children they will have to hide them away. Finally, I see the caretakers are to have "part use of the garden," although what that means I don't know. Is the successful applicant expected to put any money down? JOHN BULL.

To Dr. Oates, Medical Officer of Health, Ilford.

MY DEAR DOC.,—They tell me that, on your suggestion, Ilford Urban District Council is seeking authority from the Local Government Board to lavish some of the rates in the purchase of an incubating plant for the rearing of prematurely-born babies, much as they rear chicks in the shop windows. Well, well, get along with it, Doc. The scheme is worth trying, anyhow; and if you can save the right kind of baby to make the right kind of man, you may call on me and tell me all about it. By that time refreshment may be cheaper. JOHN BULL.

To Edward Thomas, Esq., Solicitor, Bristol.

PHILANTHROPIC SIR,—You are anxious to dispose of your cottage property at Fishponds—and in order to save your tenants, as you sweetly observe, from "the risk of disturbance," you are giving them the opportunity of buying on the instalment plan. For a cottage now rented at 5s. 3d. weekly you expect to get £200; the purchaser to pay a ground rent of at least £2 5s. and 5 to 5½ per cent. on the balance of the purchase-money. Figuring the whole thing out, it does not appear that zeal for your tenants' interests has run away with your discretion. JOHN BULL.

To J. L. Ward, Esq., J.P., Leicester Police Court.

DEAR MAGISTRATE,—You were in the Chair at the Children's Court the other day when three little boys, the eldest 10 years old, were charged with stealing from a Council School. The whole escapade seems to have been little more than a boyish lark—all the youngsters had "stolen" was a bunch of keys, taken away no doubt in an impish spirit of mischief. So much for the crime. The sentence was six years' imprisonment—I use the term advisedly—in an Industrial School. In so far as you were responsible for this brutal award, you deserve the contempt of warm-hearted men.

JOHN BULL.

"JOHN BULL'S" PARLIAMENTARY BUREAU.

GRIEVANCES OF ALL CLASSES WHICH CALL FOR REMEDY.

Our post-bag this week has brought us hundreds of complaints from soldiers, serving in this country and overseas, regarding the demobilisation muddle. There is a general feeling that the men who volunteered in 1914 should be the first to obtain their release—but in many cases they see Conscripts, who have been but a few months in the Army, returned to civil life, while men of the "First Hundred Thousand," with overseas service and wound stripes to their credit, are left to "carry on." "Equality of Sacrifice" is an empty phrase to battle-scarred warriors.

And there is another side to the picture. Government Bureaux are asking manufacturers to give work to the men as they are demobilised—but what is being done to help the manufacturers to employ the men? There are hundreds of firms wishing to develop their present businesses, but they are handicapped by the many regulations which hedge them about, and the colossal Excess Profits Tax. There is little inducement, in present conditions, to new firms to start, or established firms to develop their undertakings, and so find employment for the men who are coming back. The policy is a dangerous one.

A repatriated prisoner, returned to this country crippled, has come to the conclusion that he committed a great crime in being captured. He enlisted in 1913 for four years, was posted "missing" in 1918, and then reported a prisoner-of-war. He is now informed that he is not entitled to a bounty, as these "are not admissible for soldiers retained in the Service on account of their being prisoners-of-war, *i.e.*, soldiers who become time-expired during the time they are prisoners-of-war." Surely the Government which can waste millions in abortive enterprises can treat more generously the man who, in addition to serving his country well, suffered such deprivations and horrors!

It is a well-known fact that inventors are not encouraged in this country. Now several have written telling us that they applied for, and were granted, patent rights since 1914—but as the Ministry of Munitions has had control of metals, it has often happened that the device could not then be made. One would think that in the circumstances the renewal fees would have been suspended until the raw material could be obtained—but the Patent Office has demanded the money, and the life of the patent is, of course, reduced. We understand that a Bill to amend the Patent Law will again be introduced. Till then patentees must pay up.

Many soldiers and sailors write respecting grievances which have led to breaches of discipline which, in the present situation of international affairs, are deplorable. We have every sympathy with our correspondents, and are prepared to admit that, as a rule, they are "more sinned against than sinning." With all the emphasis, however, of which we are capable, we beg them in their own interests and those of the country, to leave the matter to Parliament—which will get to practical business in a week's time. Give the new House a fair chance—if it fails we will not spare it, within its own portals and outside.

ORIENTAL SAVAGERY.

FOUL OUTRAGE UPON A BRITISH WOMAN.

On a public footpath in the vicinity of Changchun, an English lady missionary encountered three fully-armed Japanese soldiers by whom she was rudely challenged. She began to walk back, but was headed off by the men—one of whom, in reply to her remonstrances, struck her a blow on the side of the head. Stung by this wanton assault, the good woman seems to have used her walking-stick, whereupon she was brutally attacked by all three soldiers at once, savagely beaten with sticks and fists, and flung into the ditch. No doubt the authors of this outrage were foul exceptions to the tone of chivalry prevailing in the Japanese Army. They subjected their helpless victim to every variety of torture—dragged her by the hair, twisted her arms backwards from the shoulders, and beat her as she lay prostrate on the ground. Worst outrage of all, this gentle British lady, almost insensible from violence and shock, was twice "searched" by her brutal assailants—an unspeakable affront for which there was no decent pretext whatever. Finally, the soldiers led their victim off to the neighbouring barracks, where, according to her own statement, she was once more assaulted with great force by other soldiers who had not even witnessed the circumstances of her arrest. From the barracks she was taken to the police-station, and, lastly, it seems, before some kind of Court—by whose orders, after five hours' detention, she was released. There must be a prompt official inquiry into the whole circumstances, and a demand for the exemplary punishment of the three soldiers who have disgraced their flag.

WATCHING AND WAITING.

Bonar Law: "I don't think we ought to interfere—do you, Lloyd?"
Lloyd George: "No, I think it's one of those cases in which the wisest course is to wait and see!"

AN OCCULT IMPOSTOR.

SECRET CHARMS AND BRAZEN IMPUDENCE.

We do not often touch on such high subjects, but according to Mr. G. H. Bratley, of 19, Western Broadway, Ravenscourt Park, W., who evidently knows a bit about it, "every human being is surrounded by a luminous cloud," the colour of which "shows the progress made along the line of evolution by the human soul." To see the colour and ascertain exactly where you stand upon the ascending plane of spiritual evolution, you must be furnished with a colour Zodioscope, or illustrated chart, which, with full instructions, will cost you 10s. That, of course, is where Mr. Bratley comes in. It is not sufficient to know the colour of your aura, a simple matter enough; to be quite sure of fame and fortune you must, as Mr. Bratley modestly puts it, "wear a Talisman for luck." It appears that this occult merchant has a wonderful variety of talismans for sale, varying in price according to the particular kind of success they are warranted to ensure. Thus a charm for "Keeping away Misery and Giving Long Life" can be had for 5s., and not dear either; while "Long Life" alone—that is, we suppose, mere length of days with an average share of misery—costs as little as 2s. 6d. Apparently, Mr. Bratley's scale of charges was drawn up during the war, and it is therefore not surprising to find that the figures named exclude seagoing risks. There is, however, a special talisman for "Safety in Travel by Land and Sea," which, while the ocean was infested with submarines, could hardly be called dear at 3s. Other charms ensure Honour, Riches, Man's Love, Woman's Love, Learning and Eloquence, Hazard, Success in Betting and Stock Exchange—but we notice no special arrangement for the protection of fools against rogues and impostors, although it is only fair to say that in cases of this kind a single transaction with Mr. Bratley has been known to effect an amazing cure. Just as we are going to press comes news of Bratley being fined £10, and 5 guineas costs for fortune telling. We think our readers will agree that he got off cheaply.

THE IDEAL FILM CO.

LIBEL PROCEEDINGS SETTLED IN COURT.

It will be remembered that some time ago we commented upon the constitution of the Ideal Film Co. Our comments resulted in an action for libel, which, as it will be seen from the following statement, was amicably settled.

SIR EDWARD MARSHALL HALL, K.C.: My Lord, I would like to say a few words because it becomes important to explain the attitude that my clients, JOHN BULL, are adopting; a somewhat exceptional attitude for them, owing to the peculiar facts of this case. The Defendants's paper has for some time published strong criticisms of alien competition. Their attention was called by a Statutory Declaration to what they believed to be a case of a German firm exploiting what ought to have been a thoroughly all-British film. They made certain inquiries, which is their usual practice, and the fact that all the Directors and many of the shareholders of the company concerned bore strongly sounding German names, and that those names had recently been changed, lent colour to the suspicion that had arisen. On the faith of that information the article was published, but I think it only right to say that in the article itself these words occurred: "It is being produced by the Ideal Film Renting Company—against which, as a trading concern, I have nothing to say; I believe it enjoys a first-class reputation." And then again, at the bottom, it has the words that, "despite the remarkable Teutonic flavour of their original patronymics each of these persons may be a thoroughly loyal British subject." That article was published. An explanation was offered by the Plaintiffs; inquiries were instituted, and showed there was no other honourable course for the Defendants to pursue but to withdraw at once the statements that they had made. Therefore they withdraw them; they express their regret that they were published, and they have undertaken to indemnify the Plaintiffs against any costs which they may have incurred in the conduct of these proceedings.

NOT WANTED NOW.

MOVING PICTURE OF HODGE OUT OF WORK.

An old agricultural labourer points a moving picture for us. He is 63, willing to work, and has been "lucky" in getting it, as a rule, through the war. As he says, "All the young fellows were away, and they were glad to employ us old men. But not now! Being obliged to pay a minimum wage, they sort us old ones out." This old worthy has had but one day's work since the beginning of November. He could get employment "putting up potatoes, but the Government won't let them put them on the rail." It is rough on the old folk in the country, is it not? There is financial assistance and out-of-work pay granted to many classes of workers thrown out of employ because the Angel of Peace is beating her wings in the heavens; but Hodge—ancient, stolid, long-suffering Hodge, is forgotten, or ignored as usual. Consider this:—For the Minister for Agriculture, a peerage and the House of Lords; for the agricultural labourer, starvation and the Workhouse.

WRECKERS AT BROADSTAIRS.

OLD MAN'S BATHING BUSINESS CONFISCATED.

In 1915 an old and respected inhabitant of Broadstairs, forty years a ratepayer, obtained by tender certain rights on the foreshore, in the way of bathing huts and tents for the use of visitors. He invested his life's savings in providing and erecting the necessary accommodation, fittings, and accessories. In the three summers of 1915, 1916, and 1917, his business was carried on at a loss. Visitors were few, but his bathing arrangements were welcome to those who did arrive, and were therefore of benefit to the town. Last summer, 1918, the old man cleared expenses, and was looking forward to a first profitable season this year. But the Broadstairs District Council quashed that at one fell blow. They have notified him that they intend to run all amusements on the foreshore "on their own," and these include the bathing privileges held by him and paid for year by year. And all they offer in return is to invite him to supply an inventory of his "stock" and to name the lowest price he will take for it. It seems very cruel.

A SLOW TIME-KEEPER.

SOME WATCH CASES FROM COVENTRY.

When a man uses the word "Reliable" as his trade mark, one would expect him to act up to it. John Hawley, Watch Manufacturer, of Coventry, also has "Reliable Works"; but whether this refers to a building or the contents of a watch-case we are not sure. Judging from some letters to hand, he is not always as reliable as he might be. A soldier in Belgium sent him a watch for repair, together with a 10s. note, in November last. He acknowledged receipt of both, but, ever since, he has failed to answer the soldier's communications, and nothing has been heard of the watch since it went to Coventry. Another curious story is told by a lady who sent him one of his own watches for repair last summer. He wrote that "owing to the scarcity of labour" it would be forwarded "in about 8 to 10 weeks." That was in June last. After about 11 weeks a Hawley postcard said:—"The watch is now with my selling agent, Phillip Woolfson, 165, Trongate, Glasgow, to whom please communicate." That gentleman never replied at all, and Hawley subsequently post-carded thusly:—"I am writing Mr. Woolfson strongly on the matter . . . and no doubt you will have your watch returned in a few days." But there was, and is, a doubt, for the watch has not yet turned up. This "Reliable" man should regulate his own method, with a view to keeping better time.

THE GIRL-MOTHER AND THE MAGISTRATE.

NATIONAL OUTCRY AND DEMAND FOR REFORM.

BY CHARLES PALMER (*Assistant Editor*).

IT was to be expected. My revelations of the cruel and callous system by which a new life was sacrificed and a young mother sent to her death in Holloway Gaol have raised a cry for reform which resounds from one end of the country to the other. The fact that in this so-called Christian land of ours a girl mother, known by all in authority to be in a condition which should evoke the tender consideration of every man of feeling, could be callously kept under lock and key in a prison cell, and that the System turns a deaf ear to all pleadings, has created the utmost indignation and reprobation. I should like Mr. Bros, the Magistrate of the Clerkenwell Police Court, to see some of the letters I have received. Or perhaps, for his own peace of mind, it were better that he should be kept in ignorance of feelings expressed in terms which, in spite of the usual official aloofness, might be found too strong for the Magistrate's stomach. They came from mothers and fathers, from men of the Army and Grand Fleet—from all sections of the community. In my view, and that of many readers, this is not one of those cases where the representative of the law should adopt an attitude of "icy isolation," and refuse to explain the motives—if there were motives—which induced him to turn a deaf ear to the pleadings of the mother of the dead girl. Mr. Bros was told the truth; he did not err in ignorance. He knew that Ellen Sullivan, brought before him on a trivial charge, was in due course to become a mother. Yet he refused bail, not once, but twice, and it was as a direct consequence of his refusal that there was premature birth and untimely death of child and mother.

What, I ask, is it that induced the Magistrate to refuse bail? We have a right to an explanation, if explanation there be. Ellen's mother bailed her at the Police Station, giving the surety demanded on the unimpeachable security of her rent book. And here let me say that the Sullivans are not a family of gaol-birds who might well provoke the suspicion of his Worship. They are a hard-working little band. Mother and daughter were flower-sellers. Let Mr. Bros ask Covent Garden as to their reputation, and he will find that mother and daughter were most trusted of their class. The dead girl's father is a soldier of the King, denied the chance of standing by the death-bed of his child. Her grandfather, who shares the family life, is a postman of unquestioned character—a splendid type of civil worker. And yet without making any inquiries, without even acting on the example of the police—the girl was refused bail, and sent, as I have shown, to the infamous Remand Infirmary; there to find herself in the throes of motherhood, and there, unattended, to bring a child into the world—there to die amid surroundings so cruel and heartbreaking as would not be imposed upon a convicted criminal undergoing a long sentence of imprisonment for some grave offence against Society.

We have yet to learn whether Mr. Bros, who brushed aside the appeal of Ellen's mother with the glib assurance that she would be "well looked after in prison," knew to what he was condemning the innocent girl. Has he ever been in the Holloway Infirmary? Did he know that Ellen Sullivan, found guilty of no offence, would be locked in a cell like any convicted criminal? Did he know that the wardress whose duty it was to guard this unhappy girl-mother was wholly ignorant of the duties of a maternity-nurse? And did he know that this "hospital"—as the reporter called it—was just a row of prison cells without one of the comforts or decencies which even the Huns would not deny to their own sick and suffering? If he did, then I have no hesitation in saying his responsibility is direct and personal for having refused to grant bail; if he did not, then I declare that it was his business to know to what kind of prison hell he was committing this girl-mother, whose death, in my opinion, is not explained by the comfortable theory of Dr. Spilsbury, but is to be traced to the gross inhumanity of the System.

This scandal will not be allowed to go by default—to be smothered under official silence. I see that there has been an inquest on the child of another girl-mother who died in Holloway—this time in the real and comfortable hospital for the convicted. As to that case I make no charge of any kind, but I notice that Dr. Forwood, who attended Ellen Sullivan, is the responsible Medical Officer of the gaol. What has Dr. Forwood done to remedy the criminal defects of the Remand Infirmary? At the inquest on Ellen Sullivan he confessed that, from the first, he knew that the poor girl was "likely to become a mother later on"; he admitted that there was no "proper remand hospital" for the reception of such cases, and he declared that she would "still have been *left in the cell* even if he had suspected an early delivery." Has the Doctor of a prison no powers? Could not Dr. Forwood have sent a report to the Magistrate advising Ellen Sullivan's release—if so, did he send such a report; and, if not, why not? To do justice to Dr. Spilsbury, his evidence, although it technically meant death from "natural causes," involved admission that but for the miscarriage "she might have lived quite a long time." The prison was the murderer—that is my reading of the facts. In the Church Service there is a special invocation for Divine comfort for "all prisoners and captives, all women labouring of child, all sick persons and young children." Poor Ellen Sullivan—prisoner, captive, sick and labouring of child! I wonder if the Church will do the right thing and join with those of us who are determined to put an end to these tyrannous infamies of our prison system, and make common cause in the name of Humanity!

A PIECE OF TYRANNY.

COLLEGIATE RAID ON EX-SOLDIER'S ALLOTMENT.

Read the following statement by an ex-soldier who served in the South African war:—"I returned from the Boer War and leased at a yearly rental half-an-acre of a five-acre field at Romford. It was a quagmire when I took it, with not a living thing on it except myself. Six years after, I had converted it, unaided, into a paradise, with not an inch uncultivated." At this point a little breeze that was to grow to a hurricane came from New College, Oxford, in the shape of a demand for "tithe." The demand was for £1 11s., due, not on our friend's modest half-acre, but upon the whole five-acre field. There is an obscure legal provision which enables a tithe-owner to recover from a single tenant, even of part of the land leaving him to his remedy against the landlord and other occupiers. The behaviour of the New College authorities was disgraceful. On the ex-soldier's refusal to satisfy what he considered an unlawful claim, they sued him and obtained judgment. "When I was away at work," says the victim, "the authorised thieves of the law visited my half-acre garden, and in one hour completely spoiled my six years' hard labour, by pulling up trees indiscriminately and taking away utensils to the value of £20." In addition, there was a solicitor's bill of costs for £3. Not satisfied with the havoc they had wrought, the College returned to the charge, and a month or two ago the persecuted tenant had judgment entered against him for 7s. 4d., with £7 7s. costs. Such action on the part of a powerful University body is nothing less than tyranny, the more disgusting when it is remembered that the victim is an ex-soldier.

TWO HUNS AND A BRITON.

CRUELTY TO ANIMALS CHEAP AT CHELTENHAM.

Anybody who fancies the sort of entertainment by which two German prisoners and the guard, Private Handy, recently whiled away the time may evidently indulge it at Cheltenham to their heart's content for a very small outlay. These three brutes were in charge of horses carting manure. The wheels got stuck in the soil, and the horses could not move. Then this happened. Handy battered his mare's head with a thick stick, rested after he had struck her about fifty blows, then started striking her again, and finally kicked her savagely till he brought her to her knees. The force of example in brutality is never lost on the Hun, rare though it is that he is able to take his lessons from an Englishman. "The two German prisoners," we read in the local paper, "also beat their horses with sticks, and one of them then got a spade, dashed it against the centre horse's ribs, raising up a swelling 14 inches long and 4 inches wide." No wonder a "crowd of 100 or 150 gathered and nearly mobbed the three men." If they had been lynched they would not have been requited much less than they deserved. As we are frequently pointing out, however, the average British Magistrate is rather kindly disposed towards human brutes of this kind. It was therefore out of pure delicacy of feeling and loving kindness that Mr. E. B. Wethered, J.P. (in the chair), and other Magistrates fined Private Handy, Paul Boger, and Laurenz Kelbhenn 10s. and costs each. The defendants undoubtedly deserved three months. What the Magistrates deserve must be left to the righteous judgment of our readers.

NO SOLDIERS NEED APPLY!

QUEER HOSPITAL APPOINTMENT AT BIRMINGHAM

Many doctors who, at the expense of flourishing practices, have "done their bit" with the Royal Army Medical Corps, are looking to the future with considerable anxiety. A recent hospital appointment therefore calls for protest. The post of Medical Officer to the Corporation of Birmingham Pensioners' Hospital, salary £500 per annum, was advertised in the medical journals, preference being given to "senior men having recent hospital experience." Among the applicants were a Lieutenant-Colonel, a Major, and three Captains of the R.A.M.C., all satisfying this requirement, and with sound war service. But none of these got the job. It was given to a young man from Ireland, qualified only a few months ago, and with nothing to show in the way of war service beyond a little work at a military hospital in Belfast. Obviously this was a wanton departure from the terms of the advertisement, and grossly unfair to the experienced Army medicos who had been encouraged to place their services at the disposal of the Birmingham Corporation. Nor is this all. Prior to the new appointment the post had been filled by a doctor having some independent means, who, on November 11th last, the moment the Armistice was signed, voluntarily sent in his resignation, on the understanding, as he has since stated, that an ex-service man would be appointed to the position. Clearly the hospital authorities have broken faith all round—and with apparently the sole object of securing the services of a young doctor who might otherwise have found more active employment suited to his years. We wonder why.

MONEY FOR NOTHING.

THE SCURVINESS OF "DR." BROWNE.

Clearly Mr. R. Browne, of the Herbal and Dental Surgery, 435, Ashton Old Road, Openshaw, Manchester, and of Oak Villa, Lowdham, Notts, is of the artful fraternity. One of his little wheezes is to pose as the friend and champion of the poor. Eager to scatter his blessings abroad, Browne does not hide himself behind his surgery door; most of his business is done in the markets where, from the top of a soap-box or some other suitable eminence, he offers pills for sale at prices to suit all pockets, or genially engages to pull out your teeth for nothing. In one case we know of, he undertook to cure a woman of scurvy for an inclusive fee of £1 1s., payable in advance. The treatment was to be by means of medicine and ointment, but having pocketed the money and disbursed one or two preliminary samples of physic, Browne seems to have met with all sorts of unforeseen difficulties in carrying out his contract. First he was called away from home. Then, just as he was preparing a three months' supply of medicines as promised, he was taken seriously ill, from which it may perhaps be inferred that he had acquired the unprofessional habit of sampling his own physic. Finally, his wife—"Nurse" Browne of the advertisements—had the misfortune to tumble downstairs, and for the third time everything was thrown out of gear. All these circumstances are to be gathered from the various letters of excuse with which Browne has favoured his disappointed customer—but, as he bluntly puts it, the "doctor" promised "to cure the wife of scurviness for a guinea," and he has not kept his word. The poor woman should lose no time in consulting a qualified medical man. Meanwhile, we fear it may cost more than a guinea to cure the scurviness of "Dr." Browne.

THE REWARD OF VALOUR.

POORHOUSE AFTER LIFETIME OF LOYAL SERVICE.

Andrew Clark, of Girvan, Ayrshire, has passed his life in the service of the King. He enlisted forty-six years ago, at the age of 22, in the Royal Artillery, saw active service in India, and marched under Bobs Bahadur from Cabul to Kandahar. Next we find him in the Zulu War, serving in the company officered by the Prince Imperial, and fighting side by side with him on the tragic field of Isandhlwana. But wherever glory called there was Andy, and he had a good taste of Arabi Pasha, and has some vivid stories of the bombardment of Alexandria. In the Boer War he served under French in the Horse Artillery until he was invalided home. After passing through hospital, he worked as a labourer. And so the Great War found him. The valiant Scotsman again enlisted. He joined up in August, 1915, giving his age as 46 instead of 64. He went out as a miner in Major Harvie's party of Engineers, and in less than three months he was in a French hospital badly gassed and wounded in the head. Finally he was discharged at Chatham. And now? Now he is in the Poorhouse. Impossible! Think of his pension, and all that! Listen: When he joined up in 1915 he was getting a pension of 11s. 8d. a week. That was stopped. When he was discharged he got nothing. But later a Medical Board awarded a lump sum of £35—£10 down and £1 weekly till award was exhausted. The last payment was 5s. on 28th July last. Finally he was taken ill while at work, and being without means he was put in the Nithsdale Combination Poorhouse at Gatelawbridge. There he has been now for close on two months—this heroic old man—breathing no word of complaint, but, according to the Matron, "quiet, easy to get on with, and very mannerly." Well, Andy Clark, you are not going to stop there. You are coming out with a proper pension to your credit, or we'll know the reason why.

The HIGHEST QUALITY and the BIGGEST VALUE

Black Cat

EXTRA LARGE

(Green Band)

VIRGINIA CIGARETTES

Black Cat — Medium — 10 for 4½d.

HEARD AT THE DISPERSAL STATION.

"A LITTLE MORE AND HOW MUCH IT IS?"

EX-TOMMY (*shivering in unaccustomed "civvies"*): 'Ere, I've changed me mind. Cut it out, will you?

DEMOBILISATION OFFICIAL: I'm not a surgeon. What's your trouble?

EX-TOMMY: I made a mistake. I find there ain't no 'urry fur me. *You* know—I was 'ero last week.

OFFICIAL: Yes, I think I remember you. You were demobilised, and were highly indignant when I suggested that a smart chap like you might do worse than stick to the Colours a bit longer, until the mess is properly cleaned up.

EX-TOMMY: That's right. I was prop'ly fed up. I wasn't altogether meself, like. Blimy! Ain't it cold?

OFFICIAL: I know you were rather rude. But there was no need for you to come back and apologise. I'm busy. Good-day.

EX-TOMMY: I 'aven't come back to apologise. I've come back to tell you I made a bit of a bloomer. I want me number back. I want to git back to me pals.

OFFICIAL: That's nothing to do with me. So far as I am officially concerned, you no longer exist. If you want to rejoin the Army you must re-enlist. Pass along, please.

EX-TOMMY (*turning to a soldier wailing to get his "ticket"*): I reckon I was a ruddy fool to git out of it. You goin' to? Crimes! Ain't it cold?

SOLDIER (*impatiently*): Am I? Not 'arf! I've bin waitin' four years fur this.

EX-TOMMY: Then take my tip, you'll wish you 'adn't. It's 'orrible out o' the Army now. You'll feel 'arf froze in civvies. Gotter job to go to?

SOLDIER: Yes, I've gotter decent job waitin' for me.

EX-TOMMY: 'Ow much?

SOLDIER: Two quid a week.

EX-TOMMY: H'm! Married?

SOLDIER: Yes; an' two nippers.

EX-TOMMY: Then take my advice, ole son—stick to the Army. It's cushy compared with civvy life. I've on'y bin out a week, but I'm prop'ly fed up, and I'm orf to re-enlist. My arnt! Aint it 'orrible cold?

SOLDIER: Nothink extra.

EX-TOMMY: That's just it. You don't notice it. Cos w'y? Cos you're in khaki. Cos you're gotter warm Army shirt an' thick pants an' singlet on, an' puttees on yer legs. That's w'y you don't feel the bloomin' cold. But look at me! I'm shiverin' like a stray dog! Civvy trarsers! There aint no 'eat in 'em. An' the bloomin' shirts you 'ave to pay about ten and a tanner for you can pritty near see through. 'Sides, there's the new scale o' pay. I've got a thirty-five bob a week job since I come out. But wot's that compared to a guinea a week in the Army, with all found and a decent allowance fur the wife an' kids? I tell yer, the missus wasn't 'arf mad with me fur comin' out of it w'en she 'eard of the ten-an-six a week bonus!

SOLDIER: Orl wives ain't alike. I reckon mine won't want me to rejoin.

EX-TOMMY: Not at first, p'raps. But wait till she finds there ain't so much money comin' in, an' sees the wives of blokes wot 'ave 'ad sense enough to stick to the Colours goin' orf every Monday mornin' to the post-orfice to draw their bit! Jee-rusalem! Aint it parky! Gurrr!!!!

SOLDIER. Cert'ny, there's the kids to consider. 'Sides, I don't suppose it'll be very 'ard to git a bit o' leaf now an' then. 'Ere, wot's the time? Quarter parst twelve? Let's git out an' 'ave a drink across the road an' talk it over a bit. I don't suppose nobody's noticed me. Any'ow, I'm ruddy sure my C.O. would be damned glad to see me back again. Wouldn't be surprised if 'e made me 'is bloomin' batman.

EX-TOMMY: Ah, there's many a worse bloomin' place than the Army, mate!

[*Exeunt omnes.*]

NO, NO, NO, M

The Tragedy of Paris—Germany Behind

By THE EDI

ACCORDING to the conventional Press, the Peace Conference is getting along swimmingly. Indeed, it is predicted that all its labours will be over by the end of March. In other words, the Millennium is timed to arrive on a most appropriate date—April 1st. All that we officially know, however, is that—in addition to those Commissions which were appointed the other day to enquire into Germany's financial capacity, into the criminality and method of trial of the Kaiser and his confederates, and into the proposed constitution of the League of Nations—the Delegates have now arrived at "a satisfactory provisional agreement in regard to the future of the German colonies." And, since there has been no denial of the version of this "satisfactory agreement" as sent over by the Press correspondents in Paris, I suppose that we must assume that it is "official." So far as Eastern Europe is concerned, some unnamed "qualified Power" is to keep a friendly eye upon various half-civilised peoples until they have become thoroughly "educated"; and in the meantime their "independence" is to be recognised. What all this jargon means Heaven and President Wilson alone know. But for the moment I am not so much concerned with this interesting quarter of the globe as with those late German colonies in the neighbourhood of British dominions.

No, *No*, *No*, Mr. Wilson!

Let us see what is proposed. All these territories are to be provisionally, and I suppose temporarily, handed over to the British colonies and dominions to which they are more or less adjacent, to be administered by them, as "Mandatories," until at some future date the League of Nations shall have been formed—when it will, if you please, give the British Empire definite orders! *Hang* the League of Nations! say I. Doesn't President Wilson realise that Britain has financed the war, and that it was her intervention which has saved Europe and civilisation? America, on the other hand—and it is best to speak plainly—has suffered little, and from a commercial point of view has done magnificently; whilst, from all appearances she evidently intends to do even better still. There suddenly comes upon the scene her President, in the white robes of an idealist, after a long period of meditation in the cloistered seclusion of Washington and New York, with a soul bursting for the emancipation of mankind—"the federation of the world." In the meantime, however, Britain is out of pocket a little matter of ten thousand millions. I know that such a sordid consideration as that will shock Mr. Wilson's susceptibilities—but we really can do with the money back. We want it for the purposes of Reconstruction; for better wages and conditions for the workers; for better pay and pensions for the sailors and soldiers; for better provision for the aged poor, and for a variety of other purposes of our own. And whilst one of those precious Commissions is investigating Germany's ability to pay the bill, it would be a convenient arrangement for us to take these colonies from her "on account"—agreeing to credit her with a given sum off the ten thousand millions owing to us. So much for the commercial consideration. There are, however, two others. The first is the future welfare of the inhabitants of those territories. Who shall doubt that under British rule their people will be given the fullest opportunity for free development and a fair and just Government? To suggest that Britain requires any supervision in such a matter from a League of Nations—comprising, presumably, representatives even from Germany itself—is nothing short of a gross affront to our national pride; and I tell Mr. Wilson, without any beating about the bush, to take back the insulting proposal and apply its principle, if he is so keen upon it, to some of those South American States at present under American sway. The other consideration is the security of our own dominions. We simply cannot, and will not, take the risk of having any kind of international colonies on our borders. One Ireland is enough for us. I tell President Wilson, in the words of Sir Gilbert Parker, that any tampering with the future of Samoa and New Guinea in the way proposed would mean the beginning of the wrecking of the British Empire; and I tell him further, in the words of General Smuts, that the people of South Africa will never for an instant tolerate the placing of German Africa under any other control than that of the Union. And I tell him, in the words of Mr. Hughes, that Australia will not permit any messing about with those South Pacific islands. I repeat that this is not a matter of mere callous, grasping annexation—it is entirely a question of account. Whatever the colonies may be worth from a material or political point of view, that we are prepared to pay, by allowing it in account with Germany. All else may be left to the wisdom and justice of the British race.

The Tragedy of Paris.

To my mind, this last instalment of the work of the Conference but adds one more chapter to the Tragedy of Paris. I suppose, however, that when the Prime Minister comes back to London he will be acclaimed as the great diplomatist who has outwitted Mr. Wilson by getting these German colonies even provisionally placed under British control. We shall be told that, once having got them, we shall not be likely ever to give them up. That may well be; but, at the same time, such an attitude implies the smash-up of the League of Nations the moment it comes into existence; and that means probably another world-conflagration, and possibly a serious rupture between America and ourselves. Let us face the situation now and remove the possibility of such a catastrophe. In other words, let us insist that our title to these particular territories shall be absolute and complete—free from any future revision and any offensive conditions about the "liquor trade," "forced labour," "the open door," and all the rest of it. We have had quite enough experience in Egypt and elsewhere of the working of these multiple controls, "condominiums," and other crack-brained devices. They are on a par with the piffle spoken at the Albert Hall the other night when Mr. Asquith and Dr. Clifford delivered themselves of the gospel of universal brotherhood. I do not mind the dear old doctor talking in this way, but Mr. Asquith is really young enough to know better. As I have said before, I am quite prepared to recognise the brotherhood of my black fellow-creatures, but it must be the relationship of brother-*in-law*; and I must decide the law.

The Soldiers' Troubles.

Can you wonder, with all this nonsense going on, that there is restlessness and discontent not only amongst the working-classes, but equally in the Army and the Navy? Our fighting men were led to believe that for all practical purposes the war was over on the eleventh of November last. Except for the maintenance of a comparatively small army of occupation, they do not see the necessity for kicking their heels about in the way so many of them are at present doing, whilst their businesses at home are being ruined or their berths filled up by others. There is not a man amongst them who, in the event of a fresh outbreak of hostilities, would not gladly fly back to the Colours, but when they look on at the Paris Picnic—yes, in a case like this a picnic may be a tragedy—hear of all those social functions and trappings connected with the Peace Conference, and of the jokes and junketings of Delegates, can you wonder that they have grown impatient and want to see an end to all such fooling? I say, once again, that the first duty of the Peace Conference should have been to dictate specific and definite terms to Germany; to send an Allied army of occupation to see them carried out, and leave it to the future to determine how far, in regard to the financial portion of the terms, she is able to comply with them. After *that*, the League of Nations and the brotherhood of mankind if you like. But first of all let us finish the war. If only the Government would make this attitude clear there would be no further trouble with the fighting men. I say "further" deliberately, because I know something of what has been happening during the past fortnight. And if the people generally only knew as much, the Paris delegates would be compelled by the force of outraged public opinion to get on with the job—leaving over the building of a new earth till matters have been settled between the Allies and their enemies. After all, I do not suppose for a moment that anyone else really wants those German colonies, and certainly there is no other nation in the world as capable of success

MR. WILSON!

ind the Strikes—The Soldiers' Trouble.

EDITOR.

fully developing them as are we. In the meatime, we *have* them—and what we've got we'll hold! And now to come to this question of industrial unrest.

Germany Behind the Strikes.

It has never been my policy to shut my eyes to facts. The ordinary politician believes that by hiding his head in the sand he can avoid the inevitable. That way revolution lies. Let us look things in the face, and what do we see? Nothing less than Britain on the edge of a volcano. For many months—as I have warned the Government—I have heard the ugly rumble of revolt. Suppression is no remedy for legitimate grievances; sitting on the safety valve is the policy of fatuous fools. Whether the grumbles and troubles have been those of the Navy, the Army, or the industrial classes, I have been all for publicity—for letting in the light of day. And I make no secret of the fact that more than one member of the Government, in seeking to find out the real public or Service opinion, has "written to JOHN BULL about it"—or otherwise has privately sought my candid opinion on the course of events. And so now, at a moment of real peril to the Kingdom—when dark forces are at work, and men who share every sinister design of the Bolsheviks are scheming for the overthrow of order and for the reign of Anarchy—I consider it my duty to lift the veil upon the present unrest and to tell the honest working men of Britain that they are being made the tools of Germany. I have every sympathy with the legitimate aspirations of Labour. Although I did not coin the phrase, I have been foremost in preaching the gospel of "a land fit for heroes to live in," and I promise my "under dog" friends that in Parliament and out of it I will fight for justice for them, and all dear to them.

Who Fed the Revolution?

But I want to say this: that the influences behind this industrial trouble which threatens to upset the whole of our social life and to rob us of our legitimate fruits of victory, are German. I do not make that statement recklessly; I make it with a full knowledge of what is happening behind the scenes, and if the Government would take the nation into its confidence and disclose reports of their secret agents, there would be complete confirmation of my allegation. Remember, it was German money that started the Bolshevik fever in Russia; German emissaries disseminated the virus of Anarchy just as surely as the hateful Hun poisoned wells and scattered abroad germs of disease. The infamous Kaiser, whose life shall yet be forfeit to the Allies, thought that by sowing the foul seed of Anarchy, he could defeat his "beloved brother the Czar," and win a victory for Prussianism. But the hound of Europe inoculated Russia with a ravening disease which, in the inscrutable workings of Providence, has infected the nation he was proud to call his people. He sought victory; he reaped revolution, and to-day the fell fever which has brought thrones tottering to the ground has spread to Germany and even beyond the waters of the Rhine. In that last sentence, I am hinting at something worse than industrial discontent, and I say to those abroad who may be inclined in their chagrin and disappointment to listen to the voice of the tempter, that all we hold dear—our land, our Empire—is based on patriotism and buttressed by loyalty. "If Britain to herself do rest but true——" then all will be well, in spite of Paris Conferences and dreamy Presidents. We must have no faltering, no indecision, no act of lawlessness in the supreme hour. The British Army has stood between us and unthinkable humiliation; and if I know anything of the heart and mind of the British soldier, so far as *he* is concerned, at any rate, there will be no active opposition, no dangerous and damaging discontent, so long as peace hangs in the balance and the menace of Germany remains a present peril.

Hand and Money of the Hun.

I see, black and unmistakable, the hand and the money of the Hun. There is much that is real and legitimate in the claims of the working-classes. But I warn them that their honest discontent is being exploited by the red revolutionary, the blackguardly Bolshevik. The General Election gave the sentimental friends of Germany the knock-out blow. Wherever they sought the suffrage of the British people they were ignominiously defeated. Maclean, the man who was the accredited Consul of the Russian Bolsheviks, stood against that honest and well-tried representative of Labour, Mr. Barnes, and Glasgow would have none of him. It was this man Maclean whom we discovered as one of the ugly little band anxious to consort with the German prisoners in the Holyport Internment Camp, and who went out of his way to urge the guard to give these hated creatures "most favourable treatment." Glasgow has been the hotbed, the forcing-house, of the red revolutionary; and it is the working men of this Scotch city who to-day are being used by these enemies of order and civilisation in their criminal game of stimulating revolution. Never forget it was hope of revolution in Ireland that induced the Kaiser and his sanguinary War Lords to enter upon the great gamble, and to drench Europe and half the world in blood. And when the tide of fortune turned against the arch-criminal and his fellow conspirators, they again looked for a revolution—not this time in Ireland, but in England—to save them from military annihilation. Read the latest revelations of that thieving and pimply creature, the Crown Prince, and again you will see that in what for the German Army were the dark days, preceding for us the bungled armistice, that decadent heir to a doomed throne looked to the work of German agents in England to foment revolution, and so save the Hun soldiers from the knock-out blow. We know, to our cost, that it was the British politicians who intervened, and arrested the arm of the soldier when about to administer the *coup de grâce*. We can never forget the alleged comment of Sir Edward, now Viscount, Grey, in his final interview with Prince Lichnowsky—that if England entered the war we should never permit Germany to be crushed. Well, whether the ex-Foreign Secretary did or did not utter those comforting words to the German Ambassador, the fact remains that the diplomatist and the politician are doing their best to fulfil that sinister pledge. But it is bad enough to realise that Germany is to be spared if certain influences at the Paris Conference are allowed to prevail. It is adding insult to irreparable injury to allow the agents of, and sympathisers with, the enemy to inoculate the healthy British State with the vile and paralysing germ of Bolshevism

My Warning to the Workers.

I repeat that, when the books are opened and the truth revealed, it will be found that German money is behind the revolutionary gang who are seeking to seduce Labour from constitutional to violent methods. And the working man cannot plead that he does not know whither he is being led. Let him look at Russia, stricken unto death with the devastating fever. Lenin and Trotsky—those arch fiends of disorder, in whose name, and under whose sanction, unspeakable horrors have been committed and crimes enacted which turn the French revolution into a pleasant Sunday afternoon—are the paid agents of the Hun. Germany has not only made war by the sword; she has made it as cruelly and bloodily by the murderous agent and incendiary emissary. Believe me, these creatures are working in our midst to-day—and they are working for the disintegration of law-abiding Britain and the downfall of the Empire. They are trying to befool the working man into the belief that only through red revolution can a "just settlement" of his claims be secured, and that constitutional methods are old-world and outworn. But I know my fellow-countrymen, and I am certain that the forces of disorder which are at work to-day will ultimately be confounded by the common-sense of the nation. I implore and warn the workers of this country not to be made dupes and tools of these cut-throats and ravishers, these criminals and incendiaries. Labour has won its proud charter by legitimate means; it has hitherto had the country on its side in every fair demand for a betterment of conditions. Let it trust to the good sense and justice of the nation and all will be well; if it succumb to the Hun mercenaries who are seeking to poison thought and prostitute patriotism, the reeking pit of bloody Anarchy awaits it!

"TOMMY AND JACK."

Dealing also with the Discharged Sailor and Soldier and their Dependents.

OUR PLEDGE.—"No case of hardship or injustice, no instance of beggarly treatment or mean cheeseparing, shall go unchallenged and unremedied."—*Horatio Bottomley*, 10th August, 1916.

"TOMMY"

For Mr. Churchill!—Flight Lieutenants and Cadets of the R.A.F. are full of grievances, which we have no doubt will be remedied if Mr. Churchill is good enough to make an inquiry. It is particularly hard on fully qualified cadets that they should be refused certificates which would be of immense value to them when they return to civilian life. Most of these boys purchased expensive uniforms in anticipation of their commissions. We trust that the flying men will be included with the cadets for whose benefit a grant is to be made in this connection.

Delays and Distress:—We have full sympathy with the overworked staffs of our Record Offices, but can see no sufficient reason for demobilised men being left for weeks or months without their discharge papers and badges. In the majority of cases employment is unobtainable in the absence of these parchments, and much distress is consequently caused.

Insult Added to Injury:—A legless patient from Fulham Palace Hospital was taken by a couple of his chums to the Blue Hall Cinema, in Putney High Street, to forget his woes for an hour or two. The poor fellow was refused admission by the management, for what reason we know not; but it was certainly hard upon our legless hero, who had a right to expect different treatment.

Unpaid:—They are doing the cheap at Netley Station, where there are upwards of fifty unpaid acting ranks—some of whom, after seeing active service, are bossed by paid Warrant Officers and other N.C.O.s who were never out. It is about time these men were granted pay for their work.

Demobilisation:—Our postbag contains many hundreds of letters weekly, asking us to use our influence in having soldiers demobilised. The matter, however, rests entirely with the soldier, his employer while in civilian life, and the Ministry of Labour, the plea of a man being "pivotal" no longer availing. Will correspondents accept this paragraph as an answer to their letters on the subject?

"JACK."

Be Patient.—We know that there are many real and legitimate grievances of the lower deck which call for remedy. But we say to Jack, in all sympathy and sincerity—be patient. This is not the time for anything in the way of a demonstration. Leave that to the men who have not yet learned the true duty of Britons. There are good and loyal friends who will support you both in Parliament and out of it. Again we say, be patient.

Those Mine Sweepers.—Not for the first time, we have given expression to the complaints of the mine-sweepers, and we are ready to admit that those who carried on under the strain and stress of war have a right, not to equal, but to better treatment than the men who are now clearing things up. But *their* risks, too, are great—that we must admit.

Doing the Huns' Dirty Work: Why on earth did we insist on the "right" to sweep up German mines and obstructions on the high seas? Surely the Huns ought to have been compelled to do their own dirty and dangerous work of this sort. Why did Admiral Wemyss demand that our men should take all the risks? There have already been some protests about this among the sweepers, and there are likely to be more.

Demobilisation:—Recently hundreds of men at Dover answered a call for volunteers to sweep, and were told that they would not be demobilised until the fields were clear. They went on leave, and when they returned to the base found that many of the trawlers had been taken away to their home ports by crews who were not volunteers. It seems funny!

Watch Coast Guard Pay:—Pensioners only for the Coast Guard henceforth. It sounds an excellent thing for the pensioner; but—wait and see! The Admiralty are going to issue a new scale of pay for the Coast Guard, and we want to know whether, as in so many other cases, they take the pension into account in fixing the emolument. Nothing of the sort will be tolerated, anyhow. Private employers are rightly denounced for considering a man's pension in fixing his wages.

"THE SILVER BADGERS."

Secretaries of discharged sailors' and soldiers' organisations, in sending cases of injustice or official information, should mark their envelopes "Silver Badgers."

More Turned Out:—Two returned soldiers were the other day reinstated as railway constables at the Brunswick Goods Station, Liverpool. To make room for them two other constables were turned out—a couple who had done service abroad for the country, the management keeping on men who had lived in funk-holes during the war.

Another One:—Pte. Lennon, another badger, applied to re-enter his employment in the Works Department of the Glasgow and South Western Railway, at Irvine. Reply:—"I would remind you that you had not permission to leave the Company's services and join the Army, so that your job has not been left open for you. Yours truly, W. Bryson, per J. K." No wonder many of the demobilised men are in a nasty mood.

And This:—Pte. Smith made a similar application to Messrs. John Hands and Sons, Ltd., Birmingham. He was thanked for his letter, but told with "regret" that the firm were unable to apply for his services, as they were not open to offer him employment again. Perhaps some other firm will.

Women and Children First:—When Pte. Roberts left the employ of Messrs. Starks, of Foregate Street, Chester, he was assured that on his discharge he would be reinstated. When he applied he was therefore amazed to receive the following—"Re reinstatement: Please consider that in your case it is quite out of the question when I tell you that I have tried many discharged soldiers, and have been very disappointed with them. I have given up the idea of ever employing man labour again." Pretty mean, seeing that the fighting men saved Messrs. Starks in common with the rest of us.

A "Loyal Company":—We continue to receive complaints against the London and North-Western Railway Company. Driver Robinson, after two years' service, asked for reinstatement—to be informed that, as he had not asked "permission" to join the Army and do his best to get killed for the benefit of the London and North-Western directors and others, he can be given temporary employment only! In view of the attitude of the railway and other great monopolistic concerns towards our ex-soldiers, it is not difficult to understand why Bolshevism is spreading.

"THE GREATEST OF THESE—"

(Registered under the Act of 1916 as "The John Bull War Sufferers' Fund.")

This fund affords immediate relief to the deper[illegible] soldiers and sailors stranded for want of money. Every farthing subscribed goes to some deserving person—we gladly defray all expenses.

Among the numerous cases we assisted during the week were the following:—

Prostrate with Grief:—A soldier's widow is in a sad state of health following the loss of her husband, mother and one of her children, the three deaths occurring within six days. Having no income except her pension, she has had to borrow money for rent and to settle a doctor's account, having been under medical attention for a considerable time. Our sympathy in her sorrow was shown in a practical way, thanks to the generosity of our readers.

A Plucky Lad:—Specially pathetic is the case of a soldier's family, the young children of which are left to the care of the eldest boy, who is but thirteen years of age, and who runs errands in the evening to earn a few shillings towards the payment of the baker's bill. The plucky little guardian was in need of clothes and boots, which of course we promptly supplied.

A Crippled Mother:—The wife of an Expeditionary man is a cripple, and worried by the fact that she cannot work. She has three children—one of them, a tiny boy, about to undergo an operation, after some weeks of suffering. A doctor's bill has been presented in respect of the sick child, for the settlement of which she sought and received our aid.

Poor Old Girl!—A soldier's widow requiring a surgical boot, applied to the Charity Organisation Committee, and after much delay was finally turned down. We came to the rescue and supplied the much needed article. She had been in distress quite a time. She expresses her gratitude to the subscribers to our fund in touching terms, and we feel sure that some of her happiness will be reflected upon them.

We Did It:—A soldier's wife who is "expecting" recently buried a child, aged four years. The Scarborough Local War Pensions Committee refused the poor creature's application for assistance, but when we received her S.O.S. we sent the necessary money. Her thanks, too, go to the supporters of our small War Sufferers' Fund, rather than a mammoth "public charity."

Further Relief Granted:—

Child ordered glasses; cannot be paid for from separation allowance, and the mother cannot work at present.

Soldier's wife in arrears with rent, and threatened with the street. Sickness cause of distress.

Child drowned; no insurance for burial. Father home on leave, but cannot assist in paying cost.

Woman accidentally destroyed a Treasury Note, and had to borrow money to pay for boots for her child.

SUBSCRIPTIONS.

WHAT HAVE *YOU* GIVEN?

Mr. F. V. St. Clair (2nd contribution), £10; "An Admirer of John Bull" (Glasgow), 2s. 6d.; "A Disgusted R.F.'s Wife," 5s.; Gunner, R.F.A., £1; "Kut's Eye," 1s.; M. T. (Hulme), 4s.; "Jo," £2 10s.; Mrs. P. B. (Sask.), 2 dollars; F. A. T., 1s. 11d.; "Kantarites," £1 0s. 4d.; J. T., 1s.; "Hanger On" (Grantham), 2s. 6d.; "Men of the R.D.C." (Bucks), 3s. 6d.; "A British Woman" (Richmond), 1s.; S. H. (Coventry), 1s.; "A Broken-Hearted Mother" (Falkirk), £1; B. C. (Backheath), 1s.; E. G., 3s.; S. J. C. (Tiverton), 10s.; Pte. R. G. F. (B.E.F.), 8s. 6d.; R. J., 5s.; E. D. (Sheffield), 8s.; "Tiny Gee," 2s.; "A Soldier's Wife and Children," 2s. 6d.; "A Scot," 5s. 6d.; "Edinburgh," 10s.; "Indemnities," 10s.; S. J., 1s.; Pte. G. F., 7d.; H. K., 9d.; "Not Lost, But Gone Before," £1; "Thankoffering from a Nonagenarian," £5; "Dirty Dick," 5s.; M. L., 2s. 6d.; M. H., £1 2s.; "Auntie," 2s. 6d.; H. M. S. (Berkhamsted), 2s. 6d., Mrs. M., 1s.; E. W., 2s. 6d.; Mrs. F. F. (Torquay), £1; A. A., £5; A. M. (Paisley), 3s.; F. B. (Minehead), £3 3s.; H. O. (Glasgow), 5s.; T. H. T. (B.E.F.), 5 frs.; Mrs. H. (Grimsby), 3s.; Lance Naval Base Brass Band, £1 4s.; T. S., 5s.; "23," 1s.; H.M.T. *Rigoletto*, 2s.; R. W. (Leyland), 1s.; "Sambo," 1s.; S. B. R. (Lee), 10s.; Mrs. H. (Coventry), 5s.; "Kit," 2s. 6d.; J. S. S. (Norway), 5s.; "Signal," 2s. 6d.; "In Memory of G. M." (Mountain Ash), 2s.; K. L. D. (Hampton Hill), £1; K. P. (Southsea), 3s.; R. B., 1s.; S. G. W., £1 1s.; "Jackal Kaross," 2s.; J. W. (Dumfries), 1s. 9d.; B. H. (Liscard), 2s. 6d.; "Baron," 1s.

CHRISTMAS FUND.

Mrs. M. C. (Lowestoft), 2s.; E. S. (Sherborne), 1s.; H. H. (Brighton), 2s. 6d.; M. T., £1; Mrs. J. B. H. (Wymondham), 2s.; Mrs. R. (Edlington), 2s. 6d. and parcel; R. W. (Barrow), £1; W. B. (Huddersfield), 2s. 6d.; M. A. H. (Rhyl), 2s. 6d.; A. H. A. (Monmouth), £5; M. A. S. (Tusford), 4s.

(Owing to pressure upon space, it is impossible to acknowledge in the columns of the paper contributions made by means of our Collecting Boxes. The holders of such boxes are, however, given official printed receipts.)

COMPANY MEETING.

BRITISH AMERICAN TOBACCO CO.

SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE OF PROFITS.

DIVIDEND OF 30 PER CENT.

Presiding on January 28th at the sixteenth annual meeting of the British-American Tobacco Company, Ltd., at the Central Hall, Westminster, Mr. Joseph Hood, M.P., said:—

You will see that in the report we say that the factories in England have during the year continued to be largely employed in supplies for the troops abroad and the American factories have also been fully employed. We have continued to make large supplies to the War Office, Navy and Army Canteen Board, and other organisations, and to our own depôts for the troops abroad, and the output which we estimated a year ago which reached the Army and Navy at about 80 per cent. of our English manufactures, have been maintained. We have also been making some supplies from our American factories in addition to our ordinary business. Naturally the output for the general export trade has been relegated to the background in some respects, although taking into account the increased output from our American factories we have more than maintained our pre-war supplies, apart from the supplies to the troops, which we made every effort to meet.

Since the close of our financial year the armistice has been concluded and the demobilisation of the troops is now being actively carried out. That means, of course, that our supplies to the troops will materially diminish and we shall have to endeavour to resume to the best of our ability the normal relations of export trade and extend our sales to make up the loss of supplies to the troops. It will not be easy, especially as shipping facilities are not yet of the best, and the period of transition must necessarily be an anxious time.

During the war the personnel of our English and American factories has been increased to a very large extent, and it will be necessary to materially increase the output of our general trade to maintain or even approach the existing volume of manufactured goods.

The restrictions on export have not yet been finally removed, although as you have no doubt seen in the newspapers the Tobacco Control Board, which during its existence of nearly a year and three-quarters has done good work, has ceased to exist. That, I take it, is the first step towards freedom from the restrictions upon the trade, but those restrictions have not been entirely removed and freights are still very high, in fact on leaf tobacco they are still 15 to 20 times the pre-war rate. It is, however, expected at an early date that freights will be the subject of competition and that we may hope within a reasonable time more normal relations will be established.

Taking the assets side of the balance-sheet, you will observe that the item of real estate and buildings, at cost less depreciation for amortisation of leaseholds, £674,814, shows an increase of £19,896, principally due to additional expenditure at the American factories and at a warehouse in Liverpool. Plant, machinery, furniture and fittings at cost or under, £491,675, shows a small decrease. There is no change in the item of goodwill, trade marks and patents, which still stand at £879,064. Loans to and current accounts with associated companies, £5,277,913, shows an increase of £822,411. This is, to a large extent, due to the increased supplies to the associated companies, and to some extent to the additional advances made to them in consequence of the increased cost of leaf tobacco and other materials. Investments in associated companies, £5,255,636, show an increase of £174,452. Other investments, £107,055, show an increase of £93,826. This is almost entirely due to an investment of £100,000 in War Bonds. Stocks of leaf, manufactured goods and materials at cost or under, £8,654,041, is again the principal item on the asset side and shows the very large increase of £3,092,554. Sundry debtors, (less provision for doubtful debts) and debit balances, £3,223,895, is up by £505,778, due to the increased prices of goods sold to our customers and also to some extent by increased sales. The last item on the assets side, cash at bankers and in transit, £2,164,301, is up by £475,561.

Turning to the liabilities side of the balance-sheet, the issued capital of £4,500,000 Preference Shares and £6,254,320 Ordinary Shares remain the same as last year. The item of creditors and credit balances £9,218,293, has again increased as compared with the previous year to the extent of £3,752,636.

Special reserve, £1,157,739, shows the large increase of £871,404. You will remember last year I explained that in consequence of our inability to obtain permission for the distribution of a number of Ordinary shares of the Imperial Tobacco Company of Canada, Limited, which had been recommended by the directors, but withdrawn at the previous annual meeting, it had been decided to sell, and we had in fact sold part of the shares to provide us with funds towards the increased cost of leaf and other materials. I further explained that it was our intention to carry the differences between the amount realised and the value at which those shares stood in the books to the credit of the special reserve when the accounts, which are now under review, came to be prepared. That has been done and will, I think you will agree, materially strengthen the financial position of the company. The item is larger than the £1,000,000 which I foreshadowed in my remarks last year, because it not only includes the difference arising from the sale of the Imperial Tobacco Company of Canada Ordinary shares but also a sum arising from the sale of shares in another company to the extent of about £50,000 which we thought it unnecessary to hold any longer.

The general reserve of £1,500,000 to provide against possible losses arising from the war stands at the same figure as last year. Happily the war has now virtually come to an end, although peace has not yet been declared, but so soon as it is, dates for payment of the amounts due to us in respect of our German assets will automatically also be fixed under the agreement made on the sale of those assets. The item in the balance sheet this year has had the words "subject to excess profits duty upon any sums which may be recovered in respect of losses in enemy countries" added, and it would perhaps be as well if I explained that this has been done upon the advice of our auditor, because, whilst we have been assessed in the early years of the war to excess profits duty, the Government allow as a deduction from the profits assessable to excess profits duty certain losses in enemy countries, and only in the event of such losses being recovered, and to that extent will such deduction have to be written back and become liable to excess profits duty, and it may be that when we have received the proceeds from the sale of our German assets there will be some excess profits duty payable by us. I said last year that it was impossible to say until after the end of the war what our losses would be, and to what extent there would be an inroad upon this item. I, however, said that I had no further reason to believe that our estimate of the loss would be greater than that which I had previously mentioned, namely, something approaching half the amount reserved. If, however, we have to make provision out of this item for payment of excess profits duty under the circumstances I have mentioned, it may be that the loss will be somewhat in excess of half the amount previously indicated, but it is impossible, of course, until we know the actual position after the war, to say what the amount will be, or give any reasoned estimate.

There only remains one item—namely, profit and loss account balance of £3,380,837. The profits for the year amount to £3,140,174, after making provision for excess profits duty for the year—which is, I may say, in itself quite a substantial amount—as compared with £3,105,002 for the year ended September 30th, 1917, before making provision for excess profits duty for that year. You will see that in the report our estimate of the excess profits duty for the year 1916-17 is £560,000. It would probably have been more accurate to say "the balance of estimated excess profits duty," as we had already provided in that year on account of any possible liability the sum of £200,000, thus making a total of £760,000, as the present estimated liability for that year. It will, however, I think, be quite clear to you that our profits for the year under review are considerably in excess of the previous year because of the provision which has been made this year for the estimated total liability to excess profits duty for the year, whereas in the previous year we only had provided the £200,000 against a liability which is now estimated, as I have just mentioned, at £760,000.

The available balance standing to the credit is now £3,380,837, out of which the directors recommend the distribution on the 31st inst. of a final dividend (free of British income tax) upon the ordinary shares of 6 per cent. amounting to £375,259, making 30 per cent. for the year, as compared with the same last year, and leaving £3,005,578 to be carried forward. In effect, by reason of the increase in the rate of income tax by 1s. in the £, this is equal to a distribution upon the ordinary shares of nearly 3 per cent. in excess of last year. We seriously considered the question as to whether we ought to recommend an increased distribution upon the ordinary shares as the earnings would have warranted it, but we felt that we could not do so at present owing to the impossibility of foreshadowing what capital it would be necessary to employ during the coming year. The whole of the surplus of over three millions is invested in the business of the company, with the exception of £100,000 in War Bonds which I previously mentioned in commenting on the assets side of the balance sheet, and whilst we were indebted to our bankers on the 30th September last in a considerable amount which has been increased by further loans since, the cost of leaf this season has been materially increased even as compared with that last year and other materials show no reduction, in fact, the contrary. At present it is obvious that the whole of the money we have in the surplus carried forward and the additional capital raised by loans from our bankers since the close of our financial year are still required in the business and, in fact, the capital employed may have to be further enlarged. It would not, therefore, be prudent on our part to recommend a larger distribution in the way of dividend. Whilst we have had no difficulty in borrowing whatever sums are required for the business the directors will, if they think it desirable and necessary to do so, have recourse to other methods open to them by increasing the capital of the Company, but they must be largely guided in coming to the conclusion when they know whether the higher cost of leaf and materials is substantially maintained or not. Again, as I pointed out last year, this Company, in common with others, may be left with stocks bought at high prices at the close of the war and prudence has, therefore, to be exercised, more especially at this time when that consideration must largely influence the minds of the directors in forming a conclusion as to the dividends to be paid.

Our output during the year was largely in excess of any previous year, and for the first three months of the present financial year, viz., October to December last, it is slightly up even on these record figures. It is, however, impossible to say what effect the changed circumstances will have upon the output for the remaining months of the year or whether we shall be able at the end of it to present as good a balance sheet as the one now before you.

The report was unanimously adopted.

RACING NOTES AND ANTICIPATIONS.

By "THE SQUIRE."

THE CAROL SINGER-CANUTE CONTROVERSY—UNLUCKY WINDSOR.

When last week I predicted that fields would be small at Windsor I certainly had no idea that, owing to the intervention of King Frost, the meeting would be once more attended by that ill-luck which has so frequently dogged the footsteps of the Executive. Amongst the small and select company of runners was only one of the horses whose success I predicted—viz., IRVINGTON, which I am glad to say won, beating a better favourite in TOADSTONE.

We have, however, had a little excitement during the week over the CAROL SINGER-CANUTE controversy. It will be remembered that in the Village Hurdle Race at Sandown Park, in which I had prophesied the success of the last-mentioned horse, the race was won somewhat easily by CAROL SINGER, with two other animals—MONARD and DOCTOR RYAN—separating it from Mr. Bottomley's representative. This was undoubtedly a remarkable reversal of recent form, and naturally caused a considerable amount of comment in racing circles. It was not, however, until a paragraph appeared in the *Daily Mail* which seemed to cast reflection upon the *bona fides* of the race that the Editor, who has an enormous following amongst the public in selling events, asked the Sandown Stewards to inquire into the matter, and at the same time invited Mr. Baylis, the owner of CAROL SINGER, to a match with CANUTE at the same weights and on the same course. The sporting fraternity dearly love a mild excitement of this kind, and little else has been talked about amongst it during the past few days. It appears, however, that Mr. Baylis cannot guarantee to bring his horse to the post at Sandown, owing to the suspicious condition of its legs, and thereupon Mr. Bottomley pointed out that by a strange coincidence both animals—together with the second and third in the race, MONARD and DOCTOR RYAN—are all in a race together at Lingfield to-day (Wednesday), and announced his intention of running. He points out that this would be a splendid opportunity of testing the Sandown form, although there will be a slight difference of 5 lbs. in the weights in favour of Mr. Bottomley's horse, but this, of course, could not suffice to bring them together on the Sandown placings. I am sorry, however, to learn that Mr. Baylis does not propose to send CAROL SINGER to the post, and can only hope that MONARD and DOCTOR RYAN will turn up. Like Mr. Bottomley himself, I make no charges against anyone—but I know which horse I shall in that event back.

And now for my Lingfield selections:

WEDNESDAY.

Blindley Heath Steeplechase, MINSTREL PARK.
February Hurdle, CANUTE.
Greenstede Steeplechase, MACMERRY (danger MENLO).
Guest Hall Hurdle, SOMERVILLE.
Surrey Steeplechase, THE KNOCKS.
Lingfield Welter, SENESCHAL.

THURSDAY.

Sussex Hurdle, LONGERLINE.
Brighton Steeplechase, WATERBED.
Woldingham Hurdle, CORYDON.
Marsh Green Steeplechase, THE LAST.
Godstone Hurdle, CON CREGAN.
Rowland's Steeplechase, THE BORE.

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(Half-a-crown is paid to the sender of every item published under this heading. Envelopes must be marked "Pie.")

"HAMPSTEAD AND HIGHGATE EXPRESS":—
"His Lordship arrived at Gretna, accompanied by fashionable female attire, with a LARGE LEGHORN BY WHOM HE HAS HAD SEVERAL CHILDREN OUT OF THE PALE OF WEDLOCK."

"DAILY SKETCH":—
"It is a wonderful show, and the Zeebrugge relics give you quite a thrill WHEN YOU HANDLE THEM, WHICH, OF COURSE, YOU ARE NOT ALLOWED TO DO."

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"It was stated . . . when George Green was committed for trial on a charge of bigamy, that the FIRST marriage was with his DECEASED WIFE'S SISTER."

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"They have resolved to leave the 'bourgeois' intellectuals almost without any food at all, distributing to them food cards of the THIRD AND FOURTH CENTURY."

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"The walls . . . should then be smoothed and coated with a COLOURED WHITEWASH. The tone may be according to taste, THERE ARE MANY COLOURS."

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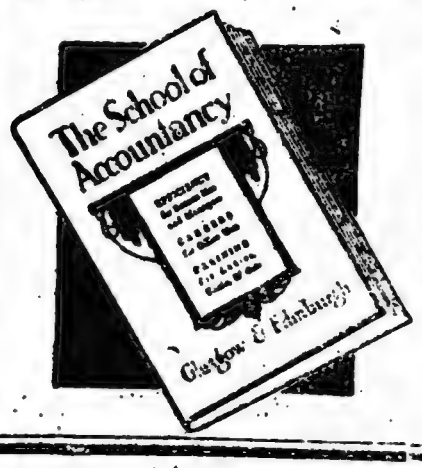
The School of Accountancy offers this expert guidance and training through its postal courses. The efficiency of its training has been amply demonstrated and proven—it is not an experiment. It gives personal training adapted to the student's circumstances, his pecuniary requirements, his capacity, the time at his disposal. It leads him, step by step, to the completion of his training. Some finish the course in a few months, others take much onger. It depends upon the time devoted to study and the aptitude of the pupil. The moderate fee is in any case the same.



This booklet, which is free and post free, gives particulars of the various courses of study, for these differ according to individual requirements. It gives the names and addresses of students who have "made good," and to whom reference can be made. Write for a copy to-day if you want £300, or £600 or £1,000 a year. Train for the big sums, and you will get them.

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COMPANY MEETING.

LONDON JOINT CITY AND MIDLAND BANK, LTD.

Sir Edward Holden on War Finance and Currency.

The general meeting of the shareholders of the London Joint City and Midland Bank, Limited, was held at the Cannon Street Hotel, on January 29th. There was a large attendance.

The Cost of the War.

The Chairman (Sir Edward H. Holden, Bart.), in moving the adoption of the reports and accounts, referred to the cost of the war, and estimated, in the case of the United Kingdom, that, after allowing for further borrowings and deducting surplus assets and the recoverable proportion of our loans to Allies, the net amount of our debt would stand at £6,418 millions. By a similar process of adjustment he estimated Germany's Imperial Debt at 8,500 millions, not including the liabilities of the different Federal States. Referring to the law of 1914, which permitted the Reichsbank to issue its notes against Treasury bills, he pointed out the great increase in both items during the war. Before the war the ordinary trade bills of exchange amounted to only £37,545,000; in December last the amount, practically all Treasury Bills was £1,222,954,000, while the notes issued rose from £94,544,000 to £1,056,216,000 in the same period.

An Unsound Financial Method.

An issue of notes against Treasury bills was wrong in principle, because it was not certain that the bills would be paid off when they matured. The Reichsbank was realising this in the enormous amount of bank notes which it had issued against Treasury bills which were not being paid off. Referring to the financial position in America, the chairman commented favourably on the policy of the Treasury in issuing certificates of indebtedness to the American bankers in the interval between the issue of the Liberty Loans, and fixing the maturities of these certificates so that they fell due on or about the instalment dates of the loan. The bankers were therefore in the position of being able to use these certificates in payment of their customers' applications, and the War Loans were paid up without any disturbance to the money market.

The American Banking System.

The net debt of the United States—on the assumption that their loans to the Allies, which might eventually amount to about 2,000 millions, were all repaid—was put by Sir Edward at 2,600 millions, against ours of 6,418 millions, and 8,300 millions in the case of Germany; and he thought that in view of the wealth of the people, their banking system, and their productive capacity, the burden ought to prove a light one. The new Federal reserve banking system had been a very important factor in enabling the American Government to issue their loans and to solve the financial problems of the war. When it was decided by the American Government, after the crisis of 1907, that a new banking system was required, the framers kept before them the necessity of adopting a system under which the note issue would be dependent upon the demands of trade, automatically expanding and contracting according to the real requirements of the country. To effect this the Government agreed to issued notes to the Federal Reserve Banks on the security of commercial bills of exchange and gold, and these banks put the notes into circulation. The theory was that additional currency could be obtained when trade required it by the discount of bills of exchange, but that the bills of exchange, being of short date, their payment, when due, would necessarily cause a contraction of the notes issued against them. To provide for the expansion of the currency an issue of notes against bills of exchange seemed to be the simplest and safest way of meeting trade requirements, but the total issue should be limited in proportion to the amount of gold reserve.

The Currency Question.

The chairman next proceeded to deal with the recently issued report of the Currency Committee. Having alluded to the restrictive conditions of the Bank Charter Act of 1844, its effects in the critical time of the outbreak of war, and to the decision of the Government to issue their own currency notes in preference to permitting the Bank of England to go outside its charter, he emphasised the argument he advanced at the previous annual meeting, that the Bank Act should be repealed, that the Bank of England should be authorised to issue notes on the security of gold and bills of exchange; that the two departments of the Bank should be amalgamated, and that the whole of the liabilities and assets of the Bank should be shown in one balance sheet. This argument, he said, still held good. If there should be any difficulty about the issue of Bank of England notes, then undoubtedly more currency notes would have to be issued, Bankers had a very great work before them to provide the means for the reconstruction of the business of the country, and they ought to know definitely that in case of necessity Bank of England notes or currency notes would be provided.

Currency Committee's Recommendations.

The result of the committee's deliberations had been to recommend that the Bank of England should continue to work under the Bank Act as heretofore, which meant that we were to undergo in the future the same experiences as in the past. It seemed to him that the method adopted in the American Federal Reserve Bank was more worthy of recommendation, and that notes should not be issued against Government Securities, which might or might not be paid off, but against Bills of Exchange which must be met at their due date. Since the Bank Act came into operation the Bank rate had been altered about 473 times, whereas in France and Germany, during the same period the rates of their central banks had been altered 123 and 212 times respectively.

The Bank of England's Limitations.

In a large measure the alterations in the Bank of England rate were due to the division of the Bank into two departments, one result of which was that the reserve in the banking department had always been smaller than if the two departments had been consolidated. A small reserve was necessarily very sensitive, as even a small attack upon it might bring it below the margin of safety, and thus cause a rise in the Bank Rate.

Our traders were in competition with the traders of other countries, and if the banks of other countries worked with fewer fluctuations in the Bank Rate than was the case in this country, our traders were placed at a disadvantage. The constitution of the Bank, therefore, which is restricted in its working by the Bank Act, required to be altered in such a way that the reserve would be larger, the ratio of that reserve to the liabilities higher, and the fluctuations in the rate fewer. If the two departments were amalgamated the ratio of reserve to liabilities would be 32.5 per cent. (against 16.3 per cent. on December 19th).

The Committee and Joint Stock Banks.

Coming to a question in the report which closely affected joint stock banks, the committee made the suggestion that banks should hold a line of Treasury bills and short-dated Government securities, holding out the inducement that such securities might be discounted at the bank in case of pressure. This was an unwise suggestion. We had recently had a great change in the condition of the joint stock banks, as a result of which they had become much larger and more powerful. For this reason they ought to keep sufficient reserves to make themselves independent of any need for discounting at the Bank of England in times of crisis.

Results of the Recent Amalgamation.

The chairman then proceeded to deal with the figures of their own bank for 1918. He congratulated the shareholders on the amalgamation with the Joint Stock Bank, assuring them that it had been satisfactory in every respect to both banks. The capital account was increased from £5,192,697 to £7,172,697. The reserve fund had been increased from £4,346,000 to £7,172,697 by the transfer from the capital, reserve and carry forward of the Joint Stock of £2,326,697, and of £500,000 from the profit and loss account of the combined bank for this year.

An Increased Reserve.

Being unable to increase the capital and reserve fund to such figures was one of the great advantages accruing from the amalgamation. The Joint Stock Bank had contributed to the capital of the London Joint City and Midland Bank £1,980,000, and the London City and Midland Bank contributed £5,192,697. The Joint Stock Bank had contributed to the reserve fund of the combined bank £2,326,697, and the Midland Bank £4,346,000. They had received from the Joint Stock Bank sufficient profits to enable them to pay 18 per cent. on the capital given to their shareholders, together with a surplus sufficiently large to enable them to contribute their share towards the increased reserves of the bank. The directors were highly satisfied.

The New Fully-paid Shares.

During the year they had issued to the shareholders new shares fully paid in the proportion of one new share for seven old shares. Each new share, £2 10s. fully paid, was issued at the price of £5, and was now selling at from £8 7s. 6d. to £8 10s., thus showing a profit to the holder of £3 7s. 6d., to £3 10s. per share. The advantage of the policy of increasing the capital and reserve fund rather than the dividend was that the bank was strengthened, and not weakened, by the transaction.

Large Increase of Deposits.

The increase in the figures showed that the bank enjoyed the greatest confidence from depositors. In 1910 the deposits were £73,415,000, and they rose annually until they amounted to £220,552,000 in 1917. In 1918, exclusive of the Joint Stock Bank, they were £271,000,000, and inclusive of it £334,898,000.

The Policy with Regard to Dividend.

He (the Chairman) need not say that an increase in dividend would not be regarded with the same degree of favour by their depositors as a strengthening of the capital and reserves of the bank. The policy which they had adopted would undoubtedly meet with greater favour from depositors than would the policy of increasing dividend. They still adhered to the same policy, and hoped to repeat the transaction of issuing new shares. When the present issue was completed their capital would be increased by £1,250,000, and their reserve fund by a similar amount, and there could be no question that their depositors would look upon this policy of strengthening the position of the bank as a better policy than increasing dividend. As regards the shareholders, it must be remembered that their capital was responsible for the liabilities of the bank, and, such being the case, they were interested in the conservative policy which the directors were pursuing. They had an advantage in the issue of new shares which was equivalent to an increase in the dividend.

Acceptances on behalf of Colonial and Foreign bankers had increased from £8,827,000 in 1917 to £13,146,000 last year.

The bank's cash amounted to £63,756,000, as against £44,110,000 the previous year, and consisted of eight millions of gold, Bank of England notes, currency notes, and a Bank of England balance payable on demand. These items did not earn interest, and it was their ambition in the future to displace both currency notes and Bank of England notes by gold. After stating that the money at call and very short notice amounted to £65,800,000, the chairman pointed out that the investments amounted to £61,600,000, of which £57,500,000 were in War Loan, War Bonds, Exchequer Bonds, and other Government securities. The Bills of Exchange, amounting to £39,249,000, were good trade bills, bankers' bills, and Treasury bills, none of which had more than three months to run. These bills were gilt-edged. The advances on current and other accounts amounted to £99,214,000, against £68,510,000 for 1917, the percentage to deposits being slightly under 30 compared with 31.1.

The Chairman referred to the satisfactory results of the purchase of the Belfast Bank shares. The report was carried.

A full pamphlet of the speech may be obtained from the bank.

SOUTH AMERICAN STORES. (Gath and Chaves) Ltd.

The sixth ordinary general meeting of the company was held at Winchester House, E.C. Baron F. A. d'Erlanger presided, and, dealing first with the accounts, said that the general reserve now stood at £217,000, having been increased by £31,000 out of the profits of the past year and by £25,000 which had hitherto appeared as an extraordinary reserve. Stocks showed a decrease of £227,000 as compared with a year ago. They owed to the Navy and Mercantile Marine a debt of gratitude for having enabled them to carry their exports to Argentina without interruption, and in recognition of their invaluable services the board proposed with the permission of the shareholders, to present on behalf of the company 1,000 guineas to King George's Fund for Sailors. In addition to the amounts already referred to as having been put to reserve, £100,000 has been set aside as a reserve for contingencies, including excess profits duty.

They intended to renew their application to the Treasury for permission to issue £1,000,000 Debentures, and with this object in view the board proposed that the borrowing powers be increased to £2,500,000.

The report was unanimously adopted, and the dividends recommended were declared.

HAS THE WAR AFFECTED YOUR NERVES?

IT is well known to the medical profession that nerve weakness is one of the most difficult ailments to cure.

It is equally well known that war has made nervous troubles very prevalent. Anxiety, general worry, sometimes privation, and the terrible strain of bereavement, have given rise to nervousness in countless thousands.

That hopeless, worn-out feeling, with its train of ailments, indigestion, sleeplessness, constant depression, sudden chills, faintness, dizziness, dullness—all these symptoms must produce nerve trouble. The sufferer cannot relax. It means work by day, misery at night, and no rest when your nerves give way. It is quite a common experience for the sufferer to find that a short dinner-party, instead of being a pleasure, has to be borne during the hours. For to be in a crowd or to undertake a journey is a great trial to the "nervy" man who has lost self-confidence.

Everything seems a trial and a care. There can be nothing more trying to the patient, when it is a national duty to be fit and well, than to feel he is not playing his proper part in the great struggle.

Personality, perseverance, and Nervous Energy are the very keynotes to success. Unfortunately nerve weakness kills these attributes, and the sufferer, without the right treatment, becomes a nervous and physical wreck, a failure instead of a success.

But the author of the remarkable nerve treatise referred to, Mr. Thomas Inch, the famous Health Specialist, with a record of over 80,000 cases, has a most important message for all John Bull readers who suffer from nerves. He has placed at their disposal a limited number of the books. All you have to do is to write him at his consulting rooms, Dept. B, 74, Clarendon Road, Putney, London, S.W.15, and enclose two stamps. Lay particulars of your case before him, when he has promised to diagnose your case and send the book with a sympathetic letter without charge or obligation.

The entirely new treatment arranged by him has secured remarkable successes when all advertised remedies have failed, even with cases of shell shock, the most severe form of nerve weakness. Without treatment nerve weakness leads to a complete breakdown, so "DO IT NOW." Mr. Inch specialises in nerve, heart, and stomach trouble.

SPECIALISED POSTAL COACHING —under a Staff of Honours men and Barristers-at-Law—for all

ACCOUNTANCY AND **SECRETARIAL APPOINTMENTS,**

and higher commercial Examinations.

"STUDENTS' GUIDE" sent on receipt of 2d. stamps.

METROPOLITAN COLLEGE (Dept. 31), ST. ALBANS.

BEACON OILSKINS will keep you dry always. Men's Coats from 25/-, Ladies' from 22/6 Children's from 10/6 (2 year-old size). Adults' Sou'westers 3/ Long Leggings 5/— all guaranteed against stickiness, leakage or disinfection on money back methods.

ILLUSTRATED LIST POST FREE Send Post card now for this Art Booklet of Weather Comfort" to BARBOURS, Ltd., 67, Beacon Buildings, SOUTH SHIELDS, England.

"John Bull's" Letter Bag.

[The EDITOR replies to, and chats with, some of his numerous correspondents.]

CORRESPONDENTS ARE REQUESTED NOT TO SEND ORIGINAL CERTIFICATES, TESTIMONIALS, ETC., *as they are liable to be mislaid. Copies only should be forwarded in the first instance.*

LETTERS *must be addressed to the Editor or Publishers, 92, Long Acre, W.C.2, according to whether they relate to Editorial or Publishing matters.* FINANCIAL, INSURANCE, *or* LEGAL *enquiries should be addressed to the Financial, Insurance, or Legal Editor, and must each be accompanied by a postal order for one shilling. No fee is charged in respect of other enquiries. Full names and addresses should be given.*

T. Y. (Bolton Percy).—"Without a doubt your paper makes for a better world for the under dog." That's the sort of compliment we appreciate.

A. K. (Brazil).—We note that you would like to found a club with the motto, "Kill the Kaiser and Crucify the Crown Prince." Put us down as an honorary Vice-President.

"CORPORAL" (Blandford).—You had every right to be indignant at finding three released Conchies in your village, but some of your anger should have been reserved for those who offered employment to them in preference to discharged men.

J. P. S. (Stockton).—Thanks, but we would rather not hear a story that would "make our hair stand on end like the fretful quills of a barrack-room mop." We somewhat pride ourselves on the stately repose of our coiffure.

E. J. W. (Eastleigh).—"It is the American bacon . . . which causes the inevitable spots on your body." There are no spots on us.

SAPPER T. S. (B.E.F., France).—Marshal Foch arrived at Charing Cross Station on December 1, 1918. No doubt he quite understood why you couldn't be there to cheer him.

A. J. G. (Acton).—Very kind of you to correct us, though "in no captious spirit"—and we thank you for your letter, though in no fulsome vein.

"OLD READER" (Manchester).—Twice torpedoed, you certainly "have a right to voice your thoughts," and in view of the latest news in regard to our ex-Ambassador at the Hague, we share your indignation to the full.

H. T. (Clifton).—The Government scheme for building small houses is at present in the lap of the gods—who will probably hush it to by-by.

"GLOBE" (Batley Carr).—"A new hat is on the question, Has the king power to sell the Navy?" No. And you can put a new shirt on it that the Navy won't sell him.

"INSISTENT" (Torquay).—Very well. We will lay you five eggs to a banana that the League of Nations won't hang the Kaiser.

H. W. G. (Islington).—Have little hopes of reduced prices in tea and sugar till the Government have got through with their own profiteering.

"TENBY" (Tenby).—"You're the man for me, 'J. B.', You suit us Tommies to a T." Right O. We'll press our suit.

JOAN W. (Berks.).—"I simply adore you, you saucy bounder." It seems to us that the sauce is on *your* side, you goose.

"JO HOOKM" (Calcutta), advocating a reform of the calendar, says: "We should thus have a year with exactly four weeks in length." No thanks. Birthdays come round quite quickly enough as it is.

"RESURGAM" (Bracknell).—So a Schultz became a Scott? Perhaps because he wasn't Irish.

R.W. (Ormskirk).—Anxious for our opinion of your verses? When a man rhymes "serf" with "earth" we shouldn't think he cares a dam for anybody's opinion.

F. S. (Bedford).—So the hospital Orderlies (voluntary workers) were also "invited" to a dinner—"tickets, 5s., exclusive of drinks." Yes, Bedford retains that bun.

F. M. (Bentinck St., S.W.).—Since your letter was written, we have had something to say about the wretched accommodation offered to the wives of Australian soldiers returning home. To know we have pleased you gives life an added zest.

J. W. (Darlington).—Six closely-pencilled sheets of foolscap are not so bad for an "old hand that has lost its pliability." We are glad to hear from a soldier of 83 with common-sense views on topics of the day.

F. M. S. (Glamorgan).—We note your suggestion that the Government should organise cricket and football matches, "the gate money to be used in running the National Health Insurance." Probably the sports would do us more good than panel physic.

SERGT. W. B. (Belgium).—Sorry we cannot recommend books on "the art of hypnotism." If you want a hobby, you had far better keep a pig.

MRS. B. (Hucknall).—All soldiers of the age of 19 and upwards were supposed to have votes at the General Election, but the trouble was in many instances that they had nowhere to put them.

"A PATRIOT" (Barry).—"Would like very much your candid opinion of the enclosed verses I wrote, 'Undying Tribute.'" Rhymes bad, rhythm rocky, metre higgledy-piggledy, form shapeless, and meaning obscure. Verses not "undying," but "dead."

MISS E. E. (Brixton).—Refused a berth when you say you have been in a Government office? Almost enough to make you tell a cram, such as "been on the stage," or "at the bar." They would receive you with open arms.

"SQUIBS" (Newbury).—"Heaps of the boys are looking to you not to let all the cheap cars and motors be sold or given away before they come back." Already suggested it.

I. M. (Hants.).—We are frequently saying as nice things about you land lassies as nasty things about the way you are treated.

P. R. G. (Leamington).—Ah, madam, the old, old story. "Fair tresses man's imperial race ensnare, And beauty draws us with a single hair."

MRS. F. M. J. (Scunthorpe).—"A Made in Prussia" lamp-glass is, of course, pre-war stock, brought out now to profiteer with. If everybody insisted on having his money back, as you did, the game would soon cease.

CAPT. W. M. (Chesterfield).—Your lengthy apologies by no means convince us that you were justified in including such a sweeping clause as "ex-munition worker not required", when advertising for a nurse for your child. We therefore have nothing to withdraw.

C. B. P. (St. Leonard's-on-Sea).—Instead of satisfying your curiosity, we prefer to draw a decent veil over the pitiful plight of certain poor Waacs in the North Countree who, notwithstanding their lack of "civvies," were compelled to surrender their uniforms on discharge. Presumably they were reduced to a sorry shift.

"BLUE BOYS" (Gallowhill Hospital).—We won't advertise the obscure idiot who wrote in a Glasgow paper about "insolence" of "bla kguards" from hospital. He would jump with joy if we mentioned him plainly.

E. R. H. (S.W.).—So German-made invisible hair-pins are still sold? Most of the hair sold also used to be German-made. Hope both will soon be invisible.

W. S. (Bristol).—"For just two paltry copper discs. JOHN takes our future burning risks." Only the earthly ones.

W. G. B. (Grimsby).—Thanks for polite intimation that our name "resounds in all the world's spheres." Evidently, you've been listening.

"FAIRPLAY" (Bridgwater).—If you have "seen it in print" that farmers have only been making "a living profit," you have read a lie that might bring a blush to the cheek of a crocodile.

B. P. (Monxton).—"Conscription of women (irrespective of class) for domestic service!" Oh, dear, dear lady! Think of the Duchess of Devonshire as our scullery maid.

DAV. H. S. (Ldn. Reg.).—"I don't know any English barber in that part of Limehouse." And as the alien Figaros there charge you 1s. for a hair-cut, there should be an opening for a decent Briton.

A. E. R. (Collingham).—Now that the order forbidding circulars has been rescinded, money-lenders are again offering "£10 to £10,000 on your simple promise." Why not accept the latter amount?

A. J. W. (E. Ham) suggests that some of the "thousands of idle typewriting machines" in Government offices should be sent to the elementary schools for the purpose of teaching typewriting. Good idea.

H. S. (Broughton).—"Some of the women are running this 25s. a week out, and then they don't intend to work again." It seemeth thou hath tumbled to something.

SGT. J. T. (Wroughton).—"Is it a fact that a searchlight's beam can be lengthened or shortened so that the farthest point shall be as wide as the nearest, and that the beam can be slowly drawn back into its source?" Our expert has tried to draw the beam of a lighted match back to its source, and he says [*inter alia*] "No."

W. M. (Ardwick).—"As regards a drink of beer, it has been terrible in Manchester." As regards a drink of whisky, it has been worse in London.

"READER" (South Bank).—Your Hun husband cannot compel you to live with him. On the other hand, a "bit of paper" from him to you would not dissolve the marriage. If you can give good grounds for fearing to live with him, apply to the magistrate for a separation order.

"FAIR PLAY" (nr. Glasgow) says that at the mental hospital where she works as a nurse her hours average between 80 and 90 a week, paid at 1½d. an hour. That *is* something to strike about.

"TWO FORAGE CORPS GIRLS" (Nottingham).—"Waacs and Wrens get fares home; so do the soldiers we work with—but we have to pay our own fare, 16s." It certainly is a lop-sided arrangement, and we regret you are on the lop side of it.

L.-CPL. A. A. H. (near Pembroke).—"Were there more foreigners working in Germany in pre-war days than there were Germans?" No; but there were more Germans working in England than was good for the Old Country.

MISS M. K. (Leven).—"Forward address of man who is giving 2s. 6d. for pennies with the 'H' on them. I have two or three to send on." Don't know anybody who will give 7s. 6d. for your 3d. But what a nose for a bargain you have! Of course Leven is in Scotland.

LIEUT.-COL. W. J. O. (Palestine).—No one can say we haven't given the enemy prisoners a good time, although we believe some of them are complaining that they haven't been tucked up nicely at nights.

P. (Wombwell).—Perhaps if you gave us fuller particulars we could help or advise you. Meanwhile, remember that your boy needs you, and if only for his sake you must not give way to despair.

B. S. (Peckham).—The policeman had no business to tell you to "go back to Ireland," and he would have had no just cause of complaint if you had told him to go somewhere hotter still.

"BEN O'KEEN" (Devon).—You are mistaken in supposing that our W. P. B. is filled with "trash." It mostly contains superb literary efforts for which, unhappily, we have no space.

M. M. (Perth).—Our opinion of your verses is that Providence intended you to enrich the world through the medium of prose.

"POLICEMAN'S WIDOW" (Torre).—"A policeman's pension dies with him when he dies." That is, in fact, the position in regard to many other pensions.

(Many replies are unavoidably held over.)

WONDERFUL VALUE IN FOUNTAIN PENS.

THE JOHN BULL PEN.

FOR FULL PARTICULARS SEE COUPON.

"JOHN BULL" Pen Coupon. Value 2d.

By sending this Coupon with P.O. for 3s. and 1½d. stamps for postage, the holder is entitled to receive a "John Bull" Gold Nibbed Fountain Pen, STANDARD MODEL. Additional Coupons up to 6 from "John Bull" from this date may be saved and used in part payment, each counting as 2d. off the price. Thus, you may send 7 coupons, and P.O. for 2s. only, and 1 d. stamps for postage.

DE LUXE MODEL, 1s. Extra.

Address, Pen Dept., JOHN BULL, Long Acre, London, W.C.2. *(Feb. 8th, 1919.)*

P.O.'s should be made payable to John Bull, Ltd., and crossed & Co.

N.B.—State whether you prefer a Fine, Medium, or Broad Nib.

THE LABOUR CLEARING HOUSE

— IS THE —

EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGE.

Properly supported by employers and workers, the EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGE can find workers for all who may want them and work for those who are out of employment.

The machinery is there. All that is needed is

(1) That every employer shall notify the nearest EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGE of his needs stating
   - (a) The number and class of workers required.
   - (b) The precise or approximate date on which they are required.
   - (c) The wage or wages that are offered.
   - (d) Whether he is prepared to employ a certain proportion of disabled ex-service men.

(2) That every man or woman or young person of either sex who is out of work shall inform the EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGE of his or her requirements, stating
   - (a) The kind of employment sought.
   - (b) The town in which it is desired to have it.
   - (c) The qualifications and experience possessed for such work.
   - (d) The rate of pay asked for.

It is essential that women workers as well as men should notify the EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGE.

All workers seeking employment and all employers seeking workers are reminded that the EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGES, whose network of offices covers the whole country, can only discharge their functions efficiently if they are fully and accurately informed of the needs of both parties.

Most valuable data is already in their possession, but they must be kept absolutely up-to-date, and, after all, this can be done most effectively by the employers of the one part and the workers of the other.

Whatever be the nature of the work to be done for the employer, or required by the worker, let the EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGE know in as good time as possible.

The earlier and the fuller the particulars are supplied the better will be the results. Remember, the State supplies both workers and work through the EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGES.

Just as the EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGES found millions of workers of all types during the strenuous and critical hours of the war's darkest days, so they can provide them now.

Therefore, CONSULT

THE EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGE.

"BULLETS" BIG INCREASE £250

1ST PRIZE

2ND PRIZE £20

3RD PRIZE £10

1ST PRIZE

10 PRIZES OF £5	10 PRIZES OF £2 10	25 PRIZES OF 10s.	200 PRIZES OF 5s.	1,000 PRIZES OF 2s. 6d.	6,000 "TARGET" PRIZES.

HOW TO MAKE "BULLETS."

First choose any of the Thirty examples given below. Then give **TWO, THREE** or **FOUR** words having some bearing on the examples chosen. Any **ONE** of the words selected must begin with **ANY** letter in the example chosen. The other words selected can begin with any letters in the alphabet. These examples will guide you:—Example:—THREATENING TO STRIKE. Bullet:—EVERYBODY BUT TOMMY NOWADAYS. Example:—BAND OF HOPE. Bullet:—IN PARIS NOW. Competitors may send in two BULLETS for sixpence. If more coupons are used an entry fee at the rate of 6d. for each coupon must be sent. Result of this competition will be found in our issue dated March 1st.

LIST OF EXAMPLES FOR "BULLETS" COMPETITION No. 319

DEALING WITH GERMANY	BOTTOMLEY DISLIKES	THREATENING TO STRIKE	BRITAIN'S FUTURE	PERFECT PEACE
WATCH WILSON	RICKING OVER TRACES	A TRYING TIME	A MARKED MAN	MOST CHEERING WHEN
WHAT TOMMY EXPECTS	BETTER WITHOUT	WE DOUBT	WITHOUT QUESTION	SETTLING RUSSIA
MAKING MONEY	CAN'T BE DONE	OUT IN THE COLD	BAND OF HOPE	THE WRONG TURNING
AT THE PICTURES	DENSE CROWD	ARMY SUITS	LEARNING TO DANCE	FOUND OUT
WON'T WASH	A BOLD POLICY	GETTING RIGHT HOME	KIND FRIENDS	IN PARIS

No.____ Closing Date, Thursday, Feb. 13th

Example_____

Bullet

Example_____

Bullet

(319) P.O. No.____

I agree to enter this Competition in accordance with the rules and conditions announced on this page.

If a coupon is used P.O. or t/d. must be sent

Signed_____

Address_____

☞ IF UNABLE TO SECURE EXTRA COUPONS YOU CAN WRITE YOUR "BULLETS" ON PLAIN PAPER.

No.____ Closing Date, Thursday, Feb. 13th

Example_____

Bullet

Example_____

Bullet

(319) P.O. No.____

I agree to enter this Competition in accordance with the rules and conditions announced on this page.

If a coupons are used P.O. or t/d. must be sent.

Signed_____

Address_____

ENVELOPES SHOULD BE MARKED "BULLETS" No. 319 "JOHN BULL," LONG ACRE, LONDON, W.C.2

Write competition in top left-hand corner of the envelope

Result of Competition No. 317 ("Bullets" £1,000 Offer) will be published in next week's issue.

BULLETS RULES. 1. The First Prize will be awarded for what, in the opinion of the Judges, in consultation with the Editor, is the best "Bullet" received, and the other prizes in order of merit, the test being cleverness, aptness and originality. The right to divide prize or prizes among two or more competitors is reserved.

2. Bullets must be plainly written on one of the coupons, and only two attempts may be written on each coupon.

3. Both coupons may be used, but each coupon must be accompanied by a postal order for 6d. made payable to JOHN BULL and crossed & Co.

Competitors must write their names and addresses and the date of sending the order on the back of the postal order, the number of which must be duly noted on each coupon submitted. Competitors sending more than one coupon may enclose one postal order for the full amount covering the number of their coupons. Coupons must not be defaced in any manner.

4. All coupons arriving too late to be judged with absolute thoroughness will be duly returned to their respective senders.

5. The Editor undertakes that every Bullet received shall have careful consideration by a competent staff of qualified judges.

6. The Editor's decision on any matter of dispute arising in connection with this competition must be accepted as final and legally binding in all respects, and acceptance of this rule is an express condition of entry.

Selection of Examples for "Bullets" Competition No. 320

WHAT BOTTOMLEY ASKS	BAD BEGINNING	UPSETTING BUSINESS	DRINKING BEER	A GOOD SPORT
FAIR PLAY	GERMANY HOPES THAT	WHEN PARTING	MAKES TOMMY SMILE	WASTING TIME
WHEN PARLIAMENT STARTS	BUYING TROUBLE	GOING TO SMASH	MY BEAUTY	SETTLING DOWN
RED TAPE	A TERRIBLE AWAKENING	GOOD HEALTH	SAME AGAIN	DRY TALK

These examples can be made use of on the coupons above, and must reach us on or before **THURSDAY, FEB. 26th.** All coupons so used **MUST** be clearly marked with the number **320** in the top left-hand corner, and envelopes containing these coupons must be addressed "Bullets," **No. 320,** "John Bull" Long Acre, London W.C.2. Such coupons must not contain any of the Thirty examples for competition **319.**

Sir Lordly is the War-loaf Nut,
You'll find him a delicious cut.

Calders Yeast

CALDERS YEAST CO., LTD., Newcastle-on-Tyne.

The Household Magician

Here's a little tube which dispels your ironmould worries and saves you pounds. Apply a touch of Movol (all Stores are selling it in 1/- and 6d. tubes) to the stain and in a few minutes the stain ha gone. No mess, no trouble.

TRADE MARK MOVOL Regd STAIN REMOVER

Removes Ironmould, Rust, Fruit and Ink Stains from Clothing, Marble, &c.

The directions given with each tube must be carefully followed.

From Chemists, Grocers, Stores, etc., in 1- and 6d. tubes. If unable to obtain, send 1/2 for large trial tube, to

W. EDGE & SONS, Ltd. Bolton.

WE BUY OLD JEWELLERY—

Rings, Watches, Brooches, Chains, Necklets, Ear Rings, etc., jewelled or plain, any condition; also Diamonds, Pearls, and all other precious Stones. Sell *now* whilst prices are high. Send us what you have per Registered Post. By return we submit best offer. If accepted, we send cash immediately; otherwise we return goods forthwith, paying our Registration cost and *refunding ours.* A. BEE & CO., LTD., Jewellers, 85 & 87, Westgate Road, Newcastle-upon-Tyne. Established 62 years. References to National Provincial Bank of England, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

JOHN BULL'S

GREAT FREE FIRE INSURANCE

COVERING ALL RISKS BY FIRE TO HOME, LIFE AND LIMB.

UNDER this most unique FREE INSURANCE OFFER anyone above the age of 10 can be insured irrespective of sex.

The premium charged by any Fire and Accident Insurance Company to secure similar benefits would certainly exceed 8s. per annum. We offer it to you absolutely free.

We have made our insurance as simple and comprehensive as possible, and shall not bother about any "Legal representative" or "next of kin." Claims will be paid to the registered reader, who must personally sign the coupon, or to the person nominated thereon, and to no one else.

A separate coupon must be filled up in respect to each person to be insured.

This offer applies only to persons residing in, and property situated in, England, Scotland, and Wales.

The full conditions governing this scheme will be published in the first issue of each month.

ORDER FORM

TO BE RETAINED BY NEWSAGENT.

To.....Newsagent.

.....

Please deliver JOHN BULL to me regularly until further notice

Signed.....

Address.....

.....

February 8, 1919.

You must also fill in the Registration Form, which will be found next to this, and post it to JOHN BULL Insurance Dept., 93 Long Acre, London, W.C.2, where your name and the name of your nominee will be duly registered.

REGISTRATION FORM

Which must be posted to—
JOHN BULL INSURANCE DEPT., Long Acre, W.C.2.

This is to notify that I have this day placed an order for the regular weekly supply of JOHN BULL with

.....Newsagent, of

.....

and desire you to register me as a regular subscriber under the terms of your Insurance Scheme.

In the event of my being injured or killed, or of my home or its contents being damaged, I hereby nominate to receive any payment due under this insurance, first myself, or in the event of my death:—

Name of Nominee.....

Address.....

Signature of Insured.....
(Mr., Mrs., or Miss)

Address of home.....

Feb. 8.

.....

To ensure all readers being in a position to claim in case of need, it is necessary that they should have JOHN BULL regularly supplied to them.

In case of loss, 1d. stamp for acknowledgment of receipt of Registration Form is required.

WHAT WE WILL PAY

For Damage to contents of Home by Fire up to ...	£200
In Case of Death directly due to Fire at Registered Reader's Home	£200
For the Loss of Two Limbs or Both Eyes, or One Limb and One Eye ...	£200
For the Loss of One Limb or One Eye	£100
Medical Fees for Injuries not proving fatal but in any claim by the injured person from oil which he, owner, employment, up to ...	£10
In the event of a Temporary Total Disablement up to 13 weeks	£1 Per Week

One packet of Quaker Oats equals 40 eggs in food value

Buy your food by the Government Standard of Food Values—the "Calorie."

"*Calorie*" is the unit of food value by which the relative nourishment of all foods is stated in the book issued by His Majesty's Stationery Office—"Food and How to Save It," by Edmund I. Spriggs, M.D., F.R.C.P.

For breakfast, for instance, eggs costing 3/8 per lb. give only 624 calories of nutrition. Fish at 1/8 per lb. gives only 228 calories. But Quaker Oats, costing only about 6d. per lb., gives no less than 1,810 calories!

Use Quaker Oats in many ways in addition to porridge—see recipes on the side of each packet. It both sustains and energises the hard worker, and strengthens the body and brain of the growing child

Quaker Oats

The Sealed Packet Assures Purity.

QUAKER OATS, LTD. FINSBURY SQUARE, LONDON, E.C.

192

QUARANTINE.

Ignorant people sometimes term Gonorrhœa a trivial disease. Yet this "trivial disease" has been accountable for something like one quarter of the cases recorded as born blind. It is one of the chief causes of sterility. It is sometimes directly fatal.

And it is frequently a most difficult disease to cure. It is not uncommon for one attack to endure for years and years, and during all this time the patient may be infective, and ought to be condemned to quarantine. So difficult is the cure of Gonorrhœa in Women, that experienced doctors may find it altogether impossible to state that the danger of infection is passed, and a lifelong quarantine may ensue.

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